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Navy offers incentives to help man growing fleet

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Navy will promote petty officers who take "hard jobs in hard locations" as it expands its force to man a growing fleet, top service leaders announced Tuesday. "We're going to recognize talent, and we're going to put that recognition in the hands of commanding officers who are closest to that talent," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said during an online all-hands meeting.

He was joined during the live-streamed event by Adm. Robert Burke, chief of Navy personnel, who laid out steps the service is taking to retain and grow its cadre of sailors.

"It's a good time to stay Navy. We want to retain our best talent," Burke said.

The Navy is adding 21,000 sailors through fiscal year 2023 as its fleet grows to 326 ships, a number expected to increase to 355 by the 2050s.

SEE NAVY ON PAGE 4

'Chief would advance to senior chief, senior chief would advance to master chief by going to those hard jobs and hard locations, immediately, regardless of the time in grade, if they've got the talent and willingness to go.'

Adm. Robert Burke
chief of Navy personnel



GEERT VANDEN WUNGAERT/AP

President Donald Trump attends a meeting of the North Atlantic Council at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday. NATO leaders gathered for a two-day summit to discuss Russia, Iraq and their mission in Afghanistan.

Opening salvo

Trump labels ally Germany 'captive of Russia' at outset of NATO summit

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

BRUSSELS — President Donald Trump opened a summit of NATO allies Wednesday by blasting Germany as a "captive of Russia" and failing to meet its commitments to the alliance in what is expected to be the most contentious meeting of allies in years.

A trans-Atlantic showdown is now un-

derway at NATO headquarters in Brussels, where heads of state are facing intense pressure to ramp up military spending.

"They have to step it up immediately. Germany is a rich country. We are not going to put up with it," Trump said during an opening meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Trump, flanked by a stone-faced Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo, also criticized a multibillion-dollar energy deal between Moscow and Berlin that he says NATO "needs to look at."

"Germany is a captive of Russia," Trump said.

In the buildup to NATO's annual summit, Trump has delivered one rhetorical assault on the alliance after another as he hammers members for not spending enough on their

SEE SUMMIT ON PAGE 3

MILITARY

Navy SEAL leaders fired for misconduct

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two Navy SEAL leaders were relieved of their duties Monday following investigations into sexual misconduct accusations while they were deployed in Africa, Navy officials said Tuesday.

Cmdr. Jarrod Donaldson and Master Chief Petty Officer Jon Franklin were fired from their positions as a unit commander and a senior enlisted adviser by Capt. Jamie Sands, the commander of Naval Special Warfare Group Two, said Navy Lt. Jacqui Maxwell, a spokeswoman for the Virginia Beach-based SEAL unit. She said both men had been reassigned to

other duties within Naval Special Warfare Group Two.

Donaldson and Franklin were serving as the commander and senior enlisted SEAL for Special Operations Command Forward-East Africa when they were suspended May 10 and sent back to the United States amid misconduct accusations, Maxwell said.

The men retained their leadership positions within the SEALs until Monday.

Maxwell declined to confirm the nature of the misconduct investigations.

According to an ABC News report, the men were under investigation for accusations of sexual harassment, and one of them was also accused of sexual assault against a female servicemember.

A defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed officials had investigated those claims. The official did not confirm the investigations' findings.

Both SEALs are likely to face some form of nonjudicial punishment, the official said. Nonjudicial punishments can include reduction in rank or loss of pay. They are often the first step toward a servicemember's separation from the service.

The Navy has eight SEAL teams, half of which are stationed at Virginia Beach. The other four are stationed at Coronado in California.

The SEALs elite Special Warfare Development Group, better known as DEVGRU or SEAL Team 6, is also stationed in Virginia.

The firing of the SEALs is the latest in a string of embarrassing incidents for the SEAL community.

Shortly before Donaldson and Franklin were sent back to the United States in May, the Navy announced it was kicking out 10 SEALs and another sailor assigned to a Virginia Beach special warfare unit after they tested positive for illicit drug use.

Two other SEALs were investigated as part of a murder probe in the June 2017 death of an Army Green Beret in Mali, according to Defense Department documents.

That investigation remains open, according to a defense official.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

Former Fitzgerald commander pleads not guilty to charges

By DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The former commanding officer of the Navy destroyer USS Fitzgerald pleaded not guilty Tuesday to criminal charges stemming from the deadly collision of his ship and a commercial vessel off Japan just over one year ago.

Cmdr. Bryce Benson was arraigned at the Navy Yard in Washington, where a Navy prosecutor read the three charges against him aloud. Seven sailors died aboard the Fitzgerald on June 17, 2017, when it was traversing the busy waters of the southern coast of Japan after midnight.

Benson is charged with two specifications of dereliction of performance of his duties through neglect — one count "resulting in death." He is also charged with one count of improperly hazarding a vessel. A charge originally brought against

him of negligent homicide was dropped from the indictment.

In the first count, Benson is accused of having "negligently failed to ensure the safe navigation" of the Fitzgerald and "provide adequate oversight of the ship's watch considering the navigational and traffic conditions; approve an adequate watch bill; revise standing orders to account for degraded equipment." The charge says that dereliction resulted in the deaths of the seven sailors, listing the rate, rank and initials of each man who died.

The second dereliction count charges that Benson "negligently failed to adequately train and inspect the conduct of



Benson

members under his command, as was his duty ... to not foster a client of complacency and to assure proper watch standing practices are executed."

The last charge states that by failing to ensure safe navigation using proper watch standing measures, Benson negligently hazarded the vessel resulting in the collision with the ACX Crystal.

Details of the collision, released through investigations and pretrial or other court proceedings, revealed that Benson was in his quarters the night of the collision, leaving a more junior officer to serve as officer of the deck. She and other junior officers in the combat information center below deck barely communicated throughout that night as the ship crossed through busy waters to get out to sea.

Testimony also revealed a degradation of the radar system, which was beset by visual "clutter" that obstructed clear view of other vessels around the Fitzgerald. It is

unclear how many watch standers were serving as physical lookouts.

Four other Fitzgerald officers were brought up on dereliction of duty charges in May. One, the officer of the deck, pleaded guilty. Two others, who oversaw operations in the combat information center, pleaded not guilty in a joint pretrial Article 32 hearing in early May.

The hearing officer recommended charges against both be dismissed. But Adm. Frank Caldwell, who was appointed as consolidated disposition authority in the cases, decided to dismiss one and proceed with a court-martial against the ship's tactical action officer.

The date of that court-martial has not been released.

Benson's court-martial is scheduled to proceed Jan. 28, with dates in October and November for preliminary appearances.

cahn.dianna@stripes.com
Twitter: @DiannaCahn

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MILITARY



GEERT VANDEN WUNGAERT/AP

From left, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and President Donald Trump prepare for a photo during a summit at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday.

Summit: Defense spending dominates talks

FROM FRONT PAGE

militaries. In doing so, Trump also has said the U.S. benefits less from the military pact than Europe, which has fostered doubts about his commitment to collective defense.

Trump's messages have roiled the 70-year-old alliance, where concerns about the president's commitment to the future of NATO are now at a near-panic level in parts of Europe.

Stoltenberg said his goal for the summit is to keep allies unified despite their differences.

When pressed by reporters Wednesday on whether Trump's tough rhetoric is tearing the alliance apart, Stoltenberg acknowledged differences within NATO but avoided criticizing Trump.

"My task is to make sure we stick together," Stoltenberg said. But he acknowledged that NATO's long-term survival shouldn't be taken for granted.

"It is not a law of nature that we will have NATO forever," he said.

To quell doubts about American commitment to NATO and security in Europe, the U.S. Senate on Monday voted 97-2 to reaffirm the country's commitment to the alliance.

Still, Trump's ambivalence about NATO and an upcoming meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin that Trump said would be the "easiest" of meetings with his European tour has caused consternation.

In Brussels, think tanks with a pro-NATO bent have assembled on the sidelines of the summit to mount a defense of the alliance's values and the role it plays in global security.

The anxiety was captured in a July 9 open letter to heads of state by scores of former alliance officials that included former NATO supreme allied commanders Philip Breedlove, James Stavridis and other generals and diplomats.

"NATO is at a crucial decision point," the letter stated. "If NATO were to fail because of short-term political frictions, the world would not only be left by the allies but by freedom-loving peoples the world

over, as they could no longer rely on this anchor of legitimate security."

While Trump has questioned NATO's value to the U.S., NATO's previous secretary general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, called the president's outlook shortsighted.

"Europeans need to spend more on defence," Rasmussen said in a Wednesday tweet. "But to pretend the USA doesn't gain from NATO ignores 70 years of relative peace that enabled the USA to become the strongest, richest power on earth."

During the two-day summit, allies finalized plans to build two new commands — one in Germany and the other in the U.S. — to ensure that their militaries can quickly deploy forces across land and sea borders in a crisis.

To improve combat readiness, participants also adopted the so-called "Four Thirties" initiative that calls for 30 mechanized battalions, 30 air squadrons, and 30 combat vessels to be ready for deployment within 30 days. The readiness plan is to be in effect by 2020.

The moves are a continuation of reform inside NATO brought on by Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine, which sparked the alliance's largest military reinforcement since the end of the Cold War.

Allies also agreed to launch a new training mission in Iraq that will involve sending hundreds of military trainers to the country. Canada offered to lead the effort.

Nevertheless, defense spending will dominate discussions behind the scenes.

Hours after Trump's broadside against Germany, Pompeo sought to signal unity by calling NATO "the most successful alliance in history."

"All NATO allies have committed to extending this success through increased defense spending, deterrence and defense, and fighting terrorism. Weakness provokes; strength and cohesion protect," Pompeo said in a tweet.

Stoltenberg said Tuesday that allies are going in the right di-

rection. In 2017, members posted the largest collective defense spending increase since the end of the Cold War, and eight member states are expected to meet NATO spending benchmarks in 2018, he said.

"I would like to thank President Trump for his leadership on defense spending," Stoltenberg said. "It is clearly having an impact."

However, nearly half of allies still do not have concrete plans for dedicating 2 percent of GDP to their respective militaries, a target agreed upon by NATO in 2014. Another point of contention is that economic powerhouse Germany is among those still falling short, even though Berlin has stated it will ramp up defense spending 80 percent by 2025.

Trump has repeatedly highlighted Germany's trade surplus with the U.S. and its lack of defense contributions as evidence of American taxpayers getting taken advantage of.

"We are the schmucks who pay for the whole thing," Trump said last week.

But as Trump has ratcheted up his criticisms of Germany and its chancellor, Angela Merkel, popular support in that country for increasing defense expenditures is on the decline.

A new poll by the YouGov institute found 60 percent of respondents oppose increasing defense spending to NATO's 2 percent of GDP mark.

Merkel and Trump met later Tuesday in a one-on-one session.

In brief remarks upon her arrival in Brussels, Merkel did not directly address Trump's earlier remarks that Germany was "captive" of Russia.

"We make our own policy and make independent decisions," Merkel said.

After their meeting, it was all niceties between Trump and Merkel.

"We have a very, very good relationship with the chancellor," Trump said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

Pentagon: Canceled S. Korea drill would have cost US \$14M

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The United States' annual August military drills with South Korea canceled last month by order of President Donald Trump as his administration negotiates a halt to North Korea's nuclear program would have cost the Pentagon about \$14 million, according to defense officials.

Pentagon officials were unable last month to provide a cost-savings estimate for canceling the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise. After Trump met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on June 12, the president announced he would halt all joint "war games" with South Korea so long as North Korea was negotiating in good faith.

On Wednesday, Army Col. Rob Manning, the Pentagon spokesman who provided the \$14 million figure for the suspended military drill, did not have a breakdown explaining how defense officials arrived at that cost.

Manning also did not have an estimate for cost savings for additional joint exercises in South Korea that could be canceled in the future.

Since Trump's announcement suspending all joint military exercises with the South Koreans following his meeting with Kim in Singapore, the president has touted the cost savings of canceling the exercises, which he has characterized as "very expensive" and "provocative" to the North Koreans.

The \$14 million cost for Ulchi Freedom Guardian represents a microscopic portion of the Pentagon's roughly \$700 billion budget. The amount is less than the purchase price of a fighter jet or slightly more than the cost of two M1 Abrams tanks, according to Pentagon documents.

Following Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang last week, North Korea blasted the United States in a statement, calling American denuclearization requests "gangster-like." Meanwhile, Pompeo remained

positive about the negotiations and called the meeting productive. Pompeo did not meet with Kim during the trip, his third to North Korea.

The Pentagon has not received direction to restart military drills with South Korea, Manning said. He also said he did not know how long it would take to reinstate the exercises should negotiations break down.

Those decisions rest firmly with Trump and his advisers, Manning said.

"Certainly they can make a decision whether or not those drills are reinstated if they decide to do so based on North Korea's actions," he said.

The colonel also said Pentagon leaders were not concerned that halting the drills with their South Korean allies would immediately affect the combat readiness of the roughly 28,500 American troops in South Korea. The troops have continued to train unilaterally, he said.

"Across all domains, we will be able to maintain (combat) readiness," Manning said. "We've got a series of things we do to maintain readiness."

Ulchi Freedom Guardian is a largely computer-driven exercise designed to prepare American and South Korean command and control interoperability, according to a Pentagon description. The exercise, held annually since 1976, typically lasts about 10 days and involves tens of thousands of troops.

Last year, 17,500 American servicemembers participated in the exercise, including about 3,500 who came from outside of South Korea, according to the Pentagon. Some 50,000 South Korean troops participated in the exercise last year.

Troops from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and New Zealand also participated, according to the Defense Department.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

Ex-sailor seeks to sue over classified photos

A former sailor is seeking to sue the Department of Justice, former President Barack Obama, former FBI director James Comey, former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and FBI agent Peter Strzok, alleging they violated his constitutional right to equal protection under the laws.

Kristian Saucier, 31, who spent a year in federal prison for taking photos in classified areas of

a nuclear attack submarine, filed an action Monday in U.S. District Court in Albany, N.Y., seeking a jury trial or \$20 million in damages.

"I've always contended that I made a mistake by mishandling classified information," Saucier said by phone Monday. "My complaint is other people weren't held to the same standard."

Saucier must get permission to sue the federal government. Saucier is representing himself.

From wire reports

MILITARY

Female sailors to get more hairstyle options

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

Women in the Navy will soon have more hairstyle options while in uniform, according to an announcement Wednesday about upcoming changes to female grooming standards.

Female sailors will soon be able to wear ponytails and dreadlocks while working or in dress uniforms. Women who chose to wear buns will be allowed to style the buns as wide as the back of their heads, according to the Navy.

Further, women in dinner dress uniform will soon be authorized to let their hair down below the col-

lar of their shirt or jacket.

There are some limitations to wearing ponytails. If the hairstyle presents an occupational hazard or safety concern, female sailors will need to pull their hair back into a bun, according to the Navy. Previously, ponytails were allowed only during physical training.

The changes were announced during a live online broadcast Wednesday with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson and Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bob Burke.

Richardson highlighted a team of six female sailors who worked to devise the new standards, which

the admiral said was evidence that sailor-borne suggestions can come to fruition. "If you've got a recommendation, we just demonstrated that that recommendation can make things happen," Richardson said in the broadcast. "If you make a good proposal and we can make it fit, we can make it happen."

The last major hairstyle regulation announcement for female sailors came in 2014, when changes were made to allow more hairstyles for women of color.

That's when two-strand twists and multiple braids were authorized as long and they hung freely above the collar and covered the

whole head.

Those changes were made after legislators criticized earlier hair regulations for all services that they said unfairly targeted black women.

The Air Force and Army also allowed more traditionally black hairstyles — such as two-strand twists and braids — in 2014, followed by the Marines in 2015. The Marines and Army authorized dreadlocks in 2015 and 2017, respectively.

Richardson said the upcoming changes are happening to build a more inclusive force.

"All of this really is again to

allow us to be an inclusive team that is focused on being more lethal to our competitors, more lethal towards our rivals, our enemies, and much more inclusive inside our team," Richardson said in the broadcast.

Women should continue to go by the Navy's current grooming standards until the new regulations are put into place.

Further details on the new standards and a timeline of their implementation will come later in an official written announcement from the Navy Personnel Command, according to the broadcast.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com

Navy: Early promotions possible for taking 'hard jobs in hard locations'

FROM FRONT PAGE

"Certainly, as we work our way up to that 355-ship Navy, there will be even more people, probably another 20,000 to 25,000 people on top of that. We're trying to build a deep bench," Burke said.

The Navy is starting a pilot program called Advancement to Vacancy, which will reward chiefs and senior chiefs "eligible to take hard jobs in hard locations" with early promotions, Burke said.

"Chief would advance to senior chief, senior chief would advance to master chief by going to those hard jobs and hard locations, immediately, regardless of the time in grade, if they've got the talent and willingness to go," he said.

Those hard jobs are located throughout the continental United States, Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and Iwakuni, Sasebo and Yokosuka in Japan.

Burke said he's had positive responses from sailors about the planned program.

"We'll pilot this, and if it works out we're going to expand it to as many pay grades as we can as fast as possible," he said.

The Navy has also announced five sets of re-enlistment bonuses this year, an "unprecedented" number in such a short period, Burke said.

"Today, 135 skills in 48 of our 87 ratings are getting [re-enlistment bonuses]," he said.

"I'm about to release the sixth one this year."

The Navy has taken heavier-handed steps to fill high-priority positions at sea.

In June, the service announced it would begin requiring enlisted sailors to transfer from shore duty to sea billets where the need is critical.

Last year, the service announced it was ordering up to 1,100 chief petty officers back to sea ahead of their regular rotation in an attempt to fill almost 3,000 billets.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattOlson



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MILITARY

UK to nearly double troops in Afghanistan

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United Kingdom will nearly double the number of troops it has in Afghanistan in response to a request by President Donald Trump for additional support in America's longest war.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said Tuesday that 440 more

British servicemembers would deploy to the country, bringing the U.K.'s total contribution to about 1,100 troops.

Her announcement was made on the eve of a summit of NATO heads of state in Brussels, where Trump on Wednesday continued his calls for more defense spending contributions from allies.

The new British support will add to the roughly 16,000 coalition

troops who make up NATO's Resolute Support mission, which trains, advises and assists Afghan forces fighting Taliban and Islamic State militants. Americans comprise over half of the mission.

"NATO is as vital today as it ever has been and our commitment to it remains steadfast," May said Tuesday, according to Reuters. "The alliance can rely

on the U.K. to lead by example."

NATO ended combat operations in Afghanistan in 2014, but a separate U.S. counterterrorism mission continues.

The announcement of more British troops came as Reuters reported that the U.S. is preparing to review its Afghanistan strategy after Trump expressed frustration over a lack of progress.

Additional U.S. troops were

sent to Afghanistan and the U.S. has increased air support under Trump's strategy. But nearly a year after it was announced, the war remains a stalemate. The Afghan government controls or influences just 56 percent of the country, according to U.S. military data.

wellman.phillip@stripes.com
Twitter: @ppwellman

Afghan peace more elusive as Taliban shrug off negotiations

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — With the Taliban shrugging off the Afghan government's latest offers of a cease-fire and negotiations, peace seems as elusive as it has been for decades in this war-battered country, both for troops on the front lines and for civilians facing frequent attacks.

The Taliban have been gaining more ground in their annual spring offensive, ignoring President Ashraf Ghani's calls for talks. Hoping to end the nearly 17-year war, he had offered unprecedented incentives, including passports for insurgents and their families.

Ghani had also offered to work toward removing international sanctions against the group's leaders and allowing the Taliban to open official headquarters in the capital, Kabul.

But for that to happen, he stressed, a cease-fire must first be agreed on and the Taliban have to become a political group rather than an armed insurgency.

In June, the Taliban accepted a three-day cease-fire over the Eid al-Fitr holiday that caps the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, a first for the group, but rejected a subsequent government call to extend it.

They maintain the only talks they would take part in would be

with the United States on their key demand: the withdrawal of all American forces from Afghanistan.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid recently reiterated the insurgents' standing line that "the Americans are the ones continuing the war, supporting our enemies and bombing our country."

"So, if there are talks, they should be with them (Americans)," Mujahid told The Associated Press over the phone. "Otherwise they won't have any results."

Since the start of the year, the Taliban have intensified their attacks. On Jan. 27, a suicide bomber drove an ambulance packed with explosives through a Kabul checkpoint, killing more than 100 people and wounding as many as 235.

The Taliban claimed that attack, as well as another week earlier in which militants stormed a luxury hotel in Kabul, killing 22 people, including 14 foreigners, and setting off a 13-hour gunbattle with security forces.

At a June gathering in Kabul, the Afghan Ulama Council — an organization of Muslim clerics and scholars — issued an edict against suicide attacks, saying they are "haram," forbidden under Islamic law.

As the gathering wrapped up and the clerics were about to disband, another suicide bomber



RAHMAN GULAF

An Afghan National Army soldier stops a car at a temporary checkpoint on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan.

struck near the site, killing seven people.

Though that attack was claimed by the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, the Taliban issued a statement denouncing the conference and others like it as an "American process" and urged clerics to reject such gatherings.

The Taliban have meanwhile

expanded their reach in the countryside. According to Mujahid, they now control 54 out of 388 districts across the country, with five districts seized in this year's spring offensive.

At least seven out of 14 districts in the southern Helmand province are completely under Taliban control. Analysts say about

80 percent of Helmand — prized for its vast opium poppy fields — has been under Taliban control since 2004, though urban centers had remained under government control.

Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish denies the Taliban's claim, saying they control just 11 districts in the entire country.

But even Washington's own Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction says more than half of Afghanistan is either under direct Taliban control or under their influence.

The U.S. and NATO have steadily drawn down forces in recent years from a peak of nearly 150,000, and in 2014 they shifted to a support and counterterrorism role. Afghan security forces, which number 195,000 soldiers and more than 150,000 police, have struggled to combat the insurgency.

The pressure is on to get some sort of peace process off the ground.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used an unannounced trip to Afghanistan on Monday to step up the Trump administration's calls for peace talks.



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MILITARY

Edwards takes over at Army post in Germany

By WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Col. Jason Edwards assumed command of U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz from Col. Keith Igyarto in a ceremony held at Daenner Kaserne on Wednesday.

Edwards comes to the garrison after completing studies as the national security fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Igyarto, who commanded the garrison for two years, is slated to assume duties in Crystal City, Va., as the comptroller for the newly formed Army Futures Command.

The Rheinland-Pfalz garrison consists of 29 sites scattered across southern Germany from Baumholder to Mannheim and supports about 40,000 personnel and their families, including a combined military and civilian workforce of about 16,000 people.

The transition from Harvard to a garrison in Germany is a big one, but Edwards said the difference wouldn't really affect him.

"I treated my time at Harvard like a job. I programmed my days from 8 to 5 and accomplished my studies inside that," Edwards said. "If it didn't work, then I would do time after my kids went to bed."

"The reading was incredible, probably about 1,000 pages a week if you did it all. So I looked at it as an occupation for about a year."

Edwards said for the time being he will follow the priorities the outgoing commander had.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz's outgoing commander, Col. Keith Igyarto, right, greets his successor, Col. Jason Edwards, in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Wednesday.

mander had.

"I will keep those in check until I can do an honest assessment of the area," he said. "I owe it to the region. I owe it to the community. I owe it to the garrison command."

"I must have the ability to observe and

look at things and then trust that the individuals before me have made some good decisions, which I am confident in," Edwards said.

morris.william@stripes.com
Twitter: @willastripes

Navy P-8A Poseidon helps Sri Lankans find lost fishermen

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The crew of a Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft found a lost fishing boat in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday after responding to a request from the Sri Lankan navy.

The boat and six fishermen had been missing for two days when they were spotted from above by 7th Fleet sailors from Patrol Squadron 45, the Navy said in a statement.

The Poseidon is commonly used for surveillance, intelligence and scouting missions. It's also capable of combat and can be used to conduct anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, according to Naval Air Systems Command.

Poseidons have searched for lost mariners before and helped look for an Argentine submarine and a South Korean vessel last year.

After the aircraft crew found the lost fishing boat, the Sri Lankan navy sent a ship to help the fishermen.

Cmdr. Mark Zematis, who leads Patrol Squadron 45, said in a statement that the Navy's "positive relationship" with Sri Lanka made the mission possible.

"As we continue to explore the operational reach and agility of the P-8A Poseidon, the trust and relationships we build with our multinational partners becomes more and more apparent in such a complex and broad Indo-Pacific region," he said.

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THE NEW SANNO

NATION

Government falls short of reunion deadline

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
AND MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Some immigrant toddlers are back in the arms of their parents, but others remained in holding facilities away from relatives as federal officials fell short of meeting a court-ordered deadline to reunite dozens of youngsters forcibly separated from their families at the border.

In Grand Rapids, Mich., Ever Reyes Mejia walked out of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement center Tuesday carrying his beaming son and the boy's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles backpack. The boy was secured in a booster seat, and father and son were driven away.

Another boy and a girl who had been in temporary foster care were reunited with their Honduran fathers at the center about three months after they were split up.

The three fathers were "just holding them and hugging them and telling them that everything was fine and that they were never going to be separated again," said immigration lawyer Abril Valdes. The children were "absolutely thrilled to be with their parents again."

Late last month, U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego set a 14-day deadline to reunite children under 5 with their parents and a 30-day deadline for older children.



PAUL SANCIYA/AP

Ever Reyes Mejia, of Honduras, carries his son to a vehicle after being reunited and released by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Tuesday.

It wasn't immediately clear how many children left detention facilities Tuesday or how many remain.

In trying to meet the first deadline, the government began with a list of 102 children potentially eligible to be reunited and whittled that to 75 through screening that

included DNA testing done by swabbing the inside of the cheek.

Of those 75, Justice Department attorneys told the court the government would guarantee 38 would be back with their parents by the end of Tuesday. They said an additional 17 could also join their parents if DNA results ar-

rived and a criminal background check on a parent was completed by day's end.

Government attorneys, meanwhile, told a federal judge that the Trump administration would not meet the deadline for 20 other children under 5 because it needed more time to track down

parents who have already been deported or released into the U.S.

Sabraw showed little appetite for giving more time to the government unless it could show good reasons in specific cases.

"These are firm deadlines. They're not aspirational goals," the judge said Tuesday.

Asked about the missed deadline, President Donald Trump said, "Well, I have a solution. Tell people not to come to our country illegally. That's the solution."

The government defended its screening, saying it discovered parents with serious criminal histories, five adults whose DNA tests showed they were not parents of the children they claimed to have, and one case of credible child abuse.

"Our process may not be as quick as some would like, but there is no question it is protecting children," said Chris Meekins, a Health and Human Services Department official helping to direct the process.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt, whose organization filed the lawsuit that forced the administration's hand, said he was "both thrilled and disappointed" with the government's work on the deadline.

"Things have taken a real step forward," Gelernt said.

The administration faces a second, bigger deadline — July 26 — to reunite perhaps 2,000 or so older children with their families. Many are being held in facilities thousands of miles apart.

Border Protection accuses NYC mayor of illegal crossing

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and his security detail violated both Mexican and U.S. immigration laws by crossing the border on foot during a visit near El Paso, Texas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection alleges in a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

The mayor's office flatly denied the allegation.

De Blasio, a fierce critic of the Trump administration's immigration policies, went to the Texas border with about 20 other mayors from around the country on June 21, the day after President Donald Trump signed an order stopping family separations at the border.

More than 2,300 families were separated as a result of the administration's zero tolerance policy, which criminally prosecutes anyone caught crossing illegally. The mayors said Trump had failed to address a humanitarian crisis of his own making.

De Blasio went to a holding facility for immigrant children but was denied entry. He then went to Mexico and crossed into the U.S. to get a view of the facility. The New York Police Department runs de Blasio's security detail.

According to the letter, a uniformed Border Patrol agent noticed a group on the Rio Grande River flood plain south of the Tornillo, Texas, Port of Entry, taking photos of the holding facility. The agent asked if anyone from Border Patrol or public affairs was there to authorize their presence. A New York Police Department inspector said no, according to the letter, and when the agent asked the group how they arrived, they pointed to Mexico.



MATT YORK/AP

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio looks through a closed gate at the Port of Entry facility in Fabens, Texas, where tent shelters are being used to house separated family members.

The agent told them they'd crossed the border illegally and asked them to remain there while he got a supervisor and took them to an official crossing for an inspection per federal law, according to the letter. The group disregarded the order and drove back to Mexico, according to the letter.

De Blasio spokesman Eric Phillips said the group did nothing illegal and had approval to be there.

"The mayor crossed the border with the direct approval and under the supervision of the border patrol supervisor at this point of entry," Phillips said in an email Tuesday night to the AP. "Any suggestion otherwise is a flat-out lie and an obvious attempt by someone to attack the Mayor because of his advocacy for families being ripped apart at the border by the Trump Administration."

A spokesman for the Border Protection had no comment.

The letter was sent June 25 by Aaron Hull, the chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol's El Paso Sector, to New York Police Department Commissioner James O'Neill.

Central American officials, DHS hold immigration talks

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen is creating an office within the department to help the governments of Central America and Mexico get information about reunifying families following their separation by the Trump administration.

Nielsen met Tuesday in Guatemala with the foreign ministers of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador and discussed the separated families and reunification effort.

Meanwhile, U.S. immigration officials worked to reunify dozens of children with parents amid a court mandate. More than 2,300 children were separated from their parents amid a zero tolerance policy at the U.S. border that prosecuted anyone caught crossing illegally.

Nielsen said she hoped the office would help streamline the foreign requests and the process.

"I think we all echoed the same thought, every minister, that nobody is in favor of any system that ends up with family separations," she told The Associated Press. "I think there were concerns about that."

The group gathered for several hours and agreed to several actions aimed at discouraging immigrants from coming north illegally.

She said the governments were working together on a regional campaign to discourage immigrants and fight smugglers, known as coyotes or polleros, and another messaging campaign targeted at children. More than 10,000 children are in shelters in the U.S. after crossing the border alone.

"I think there was a lot of concern expressed about our common enemy," Nielsen said. "We came here today with common cause and a common love of our people and how can we best protect our communities ... but also how can we best protect a vulnerable population?"

Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray said the meeting was important because "separating children from their parents is a cruel and inhuman action." He said they were seeking concrete actions to "prevent this from happening again" and ways to achieve "an early reunification."

A U.S. judge had ruled that children under 5 must be reunited by Tuesday.

NATION

Democrats struggle for unified message on Kavanaugh pick

BY LISA LERER
AND STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader, says it's all about health care. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., worries about the impact on the special counsel investigation. And Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., sees an assault that could set women's rights back decades.

There's so much for Democrats to dislike about Brett Kavanaugh, President Donald Trump's Supreme Court pick. And that may be the problem.

In the hours after the Republican president tapped the conservative jurist, Democrats struggled to unify behind a clear and coherent message to combat the nomination, which could shift the court to the right for decades.

They're energized, outraged and ready to fight. But what, exactly, is their argument to voters?

MoveOn's Washington director, Ben Wikler, who was among hundreds of liberal activists protesting outside the Supreme Court, acknowledged Democrats were far from unified behind a simple message to rally voters against Trump's selection.

ANALYSIS

"The essential message is Roe," Wikler said, citing the potential that a more conservative court would overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

"The secondary message for most folks is ACA and health care," Wikler continued, referring to the Obama-era health care law. "The third messaging plank is, 'choose your own adventure.'"

It's an all-too-familiar political challenge for Democrats, who've left voters confused in the Trump era about what the party stands for beyond simply opposing the president. In this case, the muddled messaging threatens to dampen a new surge of voter enthusiasm just a few months before mid-term elections.

For decades, Supreme Court battles have motivated the GOP's socially conservative base far more than Democrats. But in an era when liberal protesters have become a nearly weekly event, Democratic strategists and activists say they see a new sense of urgency when it comes to the country's highest court. In part, that's because Kavanaugh's confirmation would give the court a decisive conservative majority for a generation.

"Our phone is ringing off the hook," said Nan Aron, who founded the liberal Alliance for Justice Action Campaign in 1979. "There's much greater engagement because the stakes are so much higher."

Democrats hope to model their opposition on their successful ef-

fort fending off a repeal of the Affordable Care Act last year, despite a Republican majority in Congress. But that fight featured a simple, clear argument — save the ACA — and the clear risk that millions of Americans could lose their health care.

The political impact of the court debate is messier.

The new surge of energy could help Democrats in House races, where the party's fortunes largely rest in suburban swing districts. But the Democratic fight for congressional control could take a hit in the Senate, where party incumbents are fighting for their political futures in deep-red states where control of the court could be an important factor for voters.

The large number of Democrats eyeing presidential runs in 2020 further complicates the dynamic as they harness the energy and rhetoric of the left in ways that might not help red-state Democrats this year.

The question heading into the midterms, say strategists, comes down to who is more motivated — the conservatives eager to support Kavanaugh or the liberals who are fiercely opposed.

Already, both sides have poured money into the battle. The conservative Judicial Crisis Network plans to launch a \$1.4 million ad buy in four states — Alabama, Indiana, North Dakota and West Virginia — introducing the nominee in a favorable light. The conservative Koch network has committed at least another \$1 million.

Meanwhile, the liberal advocacy group Demand Justice will spend \$5 million on ads through September aimed at pressuring key senators.

Women's rights groups raised the alarm across several key states that access to abortion was at stake. NARAL Pro-Choice America launched a new advertising campaign warning that Kavanaugh is "ready to end Roe v. Wade." The organization, which supports abortion rights, is also planning a national day of protests for the end of next month.

But Kavanaugh's record complicates the Democrats' initial desire to focus solely on abortion rights. While Trump repeatedly promised during the campaign to select a nominee who would overturn Roe v. Wade, Kavanaugh has sometimes taken a more cautious approach.

In his 2006 Senate confirmation hearing to become a federal judge, Kavanaugh appeared to support the legal precedent set by the Supreme Court in 1973 in Roe v. Wade "fully and fully" because it's "binding precedent" that has been "reaffirmed many times."

The abortion issue is of particular importance this year, when women have emerged as the driving force in the Democratic Party.



ROSELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Two protesters confer during a rally in Jackson, Miss., on Tuesday opposing the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Nominee draws scrutiny over presidential writings

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's past writings that a president should not be distracted by lawsuits and investigations could become a flashpoint in what's already shaping up to be a contentious confirmation battle.

With special counsel Robert Mueller investigating whether President Donald Trump obstructed justice, questions about whether a chief executive can be subpoenaed or indicted could potentially reach the Supreme Court. Though there's no indication at this point that will happen, it's sure to be a major topic of questioning at Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing as the Senate weighs whether to confirm him to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Democrats opposing Kavanaugh are already weighing in, saying the past writings — particularly a legal article he wrote on the separation of powers in 2009 — suggest he would be inclined to side with Trump. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Tuesday that he "seems exactly like the kind of man President Trump would want on the Supreme Court if he look at Kavanaugh's past statements on presidential powers."

Investigations and lawsuits involving the president. Kavanaugh was a key player in the investigation that led to President Bill Clinton's impeachment, but a decade later he wrote that the experience, coupled with his time working for President George W. Bush, had persuaded him that presidents should not have to face criminal investigations, including indictments, or civil lawsuits while they are in office. He said Congress should pass a law temporarily protecting presidents from such distractions in office.

Clinton, for example, "could have focused on Osama bin Laden without being distracted by the Paula Jones sexual harassment case and its criminal investigation offshoots," Kavanaugh wrote in the 2009 Minnesota Law Review article.

If applied on the court somehow, those opinions could have a direct impact on Trump, who has also been dogged by allegations of sexual harassment.

In the Russia probe, it's theoretically possible the court could have to weigh in on the question of whether a president is immune from criminal prosecution. The Justice Department's Office of Legal

Counsel, which provides guidance to executive branch agencies, has said sitting presidents cannot be prosecuted while in office.

Subpoenaing the president. In addition to indictment, another issue tied to the Mueller investigation that has not been fully resolved in the courts is whether a sitting president must respond to a subpoena from investigators.

In the 2009 article, Kavanaugh wrote that Congress should also exempt the president from questioning by criminal prosecutors or defense counsel.

"Even the lesser burdens of a criminal investigation — including preparing for questioning by criminal investigators — are time-consuming and distracting," he wrote, adding that a president concerned about an ongoing criminal investigation "is almost inevitably going to do a worse job as president."

Mueller hasn't indicated that he will move to subpoena the president, though his team raised the prospect with Trump's legal team in March and may do so if the president's lawyers refuse to make Trump available for an interview.

Firing the special counsel. Trump has repeatedly criticized Mueller and the investigation on Twitter, raising concerns in Congress that he will move to fire the special counsel. The White House has asserted that Trump has the authority to fire Mueller, but only Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein has the power to fire him under current regulations. Rosenstein appointed Mueller in May 2017 after Trump fired FBI Director James Comey.

In a 1998 article in the Georgetown Law Journal, Kavanaugh wrote that Congress should give the president the ability to fire special counsels, an opinion that Democrats have highlighted in the hours since he was nominated Monday evening.

Kavanaugh's reasoning, however, was not to protect presidents but to make them more accountable. He wrote that presidents can complain that independent counsels are politically motivated while implying they are powerless to do anything about it. Giving the president firing power would "force the president and his surrogates to put up or shut up."

Noting President Richard Nixon's resignation after firing Justice Department officials, Kavanaugh wrote that "history clearly demonstrates that the president will pay an enormous political price if he does not have a persuasive justification for dismissing a special counsel."

NATION

Trump is an issue in Ala. election

Former critic of president fighting a GOP challenger

By KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

ENTERPRISE, Ala. — As U.S. Rep. Martha Roby, of Alabama, chatted with a farmer after a meeting in her district on agriculture legislation, she was peppered with questions on a range of conservative issues.

She was eager to answer: Border wall? She supports it. Abortion? Against it.

The four-term Republican is underscoring her conservative bona fides as she fights for her political life. She's facing off against another Republican next week in a runoff race that's at least partially the result of her past criticism of Donald Trump.

Roby, 41, angered some Republican voters during the 2016 campaign when she said then-candidate Trump's lewd comments about women — infamously captured on the "Access Hollywood" tape in 2005 — made him "unacceptable" as a candidate for president.

Two years later, some voters weren't ready to forgive those words. She captured only 39 percent of the vote in the June GOP primary, forcing her into a July 17 runoff against former Rep. Bobby Bright, who was once a Democrat but is now running as a Republican fully embracing Trump.

The president came to Roby's aid last month with a tweeted endorsement calling her a "reliable vote for our Make America Great Again Agenda." That endorsement could prove to be Roby's saving grace. Trump has endorsed the opponents of other GOP lawmakers who have criticized him, most notably Rep. Mark Sanford, of South Carolina, who lost his primary race last month.

Trump's backing of Roby could persuade



THE MONTGOMERY (ALA.) ADVERTISER/AP

U.S. Rep. Martha Roby, left, shown campaigning in May, is facing former Rep. Bobby Bright, right, in a July 17 runoff in Alabama. Bright, who represented the district for two years as a Democrat, is running as a Republican and says Roby is not sufficiently conservative.

holdouts to support her. Her message is that her past criticism of Trump doesn't undermine her conservative voting record in Congress.

"My record is a strong conservative record that I stand by, that I believe does accurately represent the principles and priorities of the people in Alabama's 2nd District — whether we're talking about the military or farmers or veterans, fighting for the unborn," she said after a campaign lunch with peanut farmers in Enterprise.

On a humid Friday night, Bright, 65, met about three dozen people at the wood-paneled Vida Community Center, laying out his own conservative credentials. In answering a question about the 2nd Amendment, he noted he has 11 guns at home.

"I am a Republican," Bright said. "Get that clear and spread the word. I am a Republican and I am proud of it, and I've been voting conservatively all my life. My conservative record is stronger than hers."

Bright, the 13th of 14 children born into a

sharecropping family in the district's southern end, spent 10 years as mayor of Montgomery before being elected to Congress as a Democrat in 2008. Bright cast votes against some of his party's key proposals, including health care reform. Roby unseated him in 2010.

The 2nd District is a conservative swath that begins north of Montgomery and spans through the soybean and peanut fields in the southeastern corner of the state. The district is heavily agrarian. A boll weevil monument in Enterprise pays tribute the agricultural pest that prompted the region's shift from cotton to peanuts and other crops.

The district's strong military presence is sometimes visible in the skies as planes from Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery and helicopters from the Army's aviation program at Fort Rucker buzz overhead.

Steve Tanner, 60, a farmer from Greenville, called Roby's office in 2016 because he was upset about her Trump comments. But he said he plans to vote for her next week.

Ocasio-Cortez wins another NYC primary

The Washington Post

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is on such a roll that she has won another congressional primary that she didn't even enter.

Ocasio-Cortez, who stunned 10-term incumbent Rep. Joseph Crowley in a Democratic congressional primary in New York late last month, was also declared the winner Tuesday in a neighboring Bronx-based district in a Reform Party contest.

The city Board of Elections certified Ocasio-Cortez's victory in a race in which 22 people received write-in votes, according to a report in the New York Daily News. Ocasio-Cortez, 28, a self-described "democratic socialist," got the most with nine.

Ocasio-Cortez, whose victory over Crowley catapulted her onto the national stage last month, confirmed her second win on Twitter but said she would remain the Democratic nominee in the 14th congressional district.

"Shockingly — and I'm told this is not a joke — we have ALSO won a primary in the neighboring 15th Congressional District via write-in campaign on the Reform line!" she wrote. "While I am honored that so many Bronxites are excited about our campaign, I will remain the Dem nominee for NY-14."

Tuesday's news impressed even some lawmakers who don't see eye-to-eye with Ocasio-Cortez on may issues.

San Francisco's first black female mayor to be sworn in

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — London Breed will make history Wednesday as the first black female mayor of San Francisco when she is sworn into office in the city that has come to embody extreme wealth and poverty in the modern age.

She will take the oath outdoors on the steps of City Hall in a public ceremony before at least 1,000 spectators. Afterward, she will meet well-wishers in her new office — an open house tradition that dates back a century.

Breed, 43, succeeds Mayor Ed Lee, whose unexpected death in December prompted a special June election to serve the remainder of his term.

Breed, a San Francisco native, has pledged to address the city's most pressing problems, including homeless tent camps, open drug use and unbearably high housing prices.

She also says she is committed to ensuring that impoverished black and other minority children receive the opportunities they need to advance.

Breed grew up in public housing and frequently talks about the tough love and support she had growing up, especially from her

grandmother who raised her.

She also learned from mentors and neighbors who early on spotted potential and encouraged her to study hard. Now she will earn an annual salary of \$335,996.

Breed was most recently president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for more than three years.

On Tuesday, colleagues toasted her and outgoing Supervisor Jeff Sheehy at their final meeting.

Breed thanked her colleagues for their dedication and promised to work with them no matter their disagreements.

"You can't please everyone. Not everyone is going to like you; not everyone is going to do what you want them to do," she said. "And what I noticed about this board, and what made me so proud to be a part of it, is we stand our ground, we do what we think is best and we try to fight for the people we represent."

Breed is a Democrat, as is just about everybody else in public office in San Francisco. She is considered part of the more business-friendly faction of the party.

San Francisco, with a population of 870,000, is about 6 percent black — one of the smallest percentages among major U.S. cities.



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NATION

Senate committee approves nominee for VA secretary

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Robert Wilkie, the latest choice by President Donald Trump to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs, was easily approved Tuesday by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, moving his nomination to a vote by the full Senate.

The VA committee advanced Wilkie's nomination with a voice vote Tuesday afternoon. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., was the only committee member to vote against the nomination.

The vote moves Wilkie a step closer to leading the second-largest agency in the federal government, which has been without a full-time leader for nearly four months.

Wilkie, 55, works as the Defense Department undersecretary of personnel and readiness.

He's considered a safe choice for the job, given his decades of experience working on military policymaking on Capitol Hill and at the Pentagon and White House.

After a confirmation hearing June 27, most senators on the VA committee seemed willing to approve his nomination despite a Washington Post report that criticized him for embracing and defending divisive cultural issues. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., the committee chairman, and Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., the ranking Democrat on the committee, issued their official support for Wilkie on June 28.

"Mr. Wilkie is committed to putting veterans first, and I'm pleased to support him," Tester said in a statement at the time. "The VA is navigating rough waters, and I will hold Mr. Wilkie

accountable for serving our veterans."

In March, Trump fired former VA Secretary David Shulkin. Wilkie led the VA as acting secretary for two months until he was officially nominated for the position on a full-time basis. Since May, Peter O'Rourke has served as acting secretary.

Since Shulkin was fired, Deputy Secretary Tom Bowman retired and several health officials left the VA, as did the agency's chief information officer.

No one has been nominated yet to lead the VA's vast health care system.

Adding to the strife, Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson, a White House physician and Trump's previous nominee for secretary, was pressured to withdraw after facing allegations of drinking on the job and doling out controlled substances. He's now under investigation by the Defense Department Office of Inspector General.

Since the VA became a Cabinet-level department in 1989, there have been nine secretaries. All of them were unanimously approved by the Senate, meaning no senator has ever voted against a VA secretary nominee. With Sanders' vote against Wilkie on Tuesday, it appeared that pattern could change.

During Wilkie's confirmation hearing, Sanders expressed concerns that Trump was attempting to slowly erode VA resources and send more money into the private sector.

In response, Wilkie said he believes the VA should be central to veterans' health care.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling



AMBER ARNOLD, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL/AP

People move away from the scene of an explosion in downtown Sun Prairie, Wis., on Tuesday.

Wisconsin blast kills firefighter

Associated Press

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. — A firefighter was killed and at least a dozen other people were injured when a natural gas explosion leveled at least two buildings in a Wisconsin community, authorities said Wednesday.

Another firefighter suffered critical injuries after fire crews arrived to investigate a gas leak in downtown Sun Prairie about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and several buildings exploded, igniting a fire that sent billowing smoke that could be seen for miles around.

Four other firefighters, a police officer and seven civilians suffered injuries, according to Sun Prairie Police Lt. Kevin Konopacki. The firefighter who was critically injured has been stabilized, Konopacki said.

WE Energies spokeswoman Amy Jahns said workers for a private contractor punctured a 4-inch gas main, causing a leak that resulted in the explosion that rained debris around the downtown area and ignited vehicles parked in the area.

Authorities evacuated a half-mile radius around the center of the explosion. The Barr House and Glass Nickel Pizza exploded after the gas ignited, police said.



Police officers shut down a street as firefighters work the scene of an explosion in Sun Prairie, Wis.

Nevada execution in doubt after drug company sues to stop it

By KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A twice-convicted killer scheduled to be executed Wednesday night in Nevada by an untried three-drug lethal injection was steadfast in his desire to be put to death, but a final-hour lawsuit by a drug company threatened to halt the execution.

Pharmaceutical companies have resisted the use of their drugs in executions for 10 years, citing both legal and ethical concerns.

However, the legal challenge filed Tuesday in Nevada by New Jersey-based Alvogon is only the second in the U.S. said Robert Dunham, executive director of the Penalty Information Center in Washington.

The previous challenge filed last year by

a different company in Arkansas was unsuccessful in halting that execution.

Clark County District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez scheduled a Wednesday morning hearing to decide if Scott Raymond Dozier's execution could take place 11 hours later in the remote northeastern Nevada town of Ely.

A Nevada prisons spokeswoman declined to comment.

Alvogon says it doesn't want its product used in "botched" executions. It said in court documents that Nevada prison officials illegally obtained the sedative midazolam and the company demanded that it be returned and not used in Dozier's execution.

"Midazolam is not approved for use in such an application," the document said, adding that uses of midazolam in other

states "have been extremely controversial and have led to widespread concern that prisoners have been exposed to cruel and unusual treatment."

Midazolam was substituted in May for expired Nevada prison stocks of diazepam, a similar sedative commonly known as Valium. Nevada's first-of-its-kind execution protocol also calls for the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl to slow Dozier's breathing and the muscle paralytic cisatracurium to prevent movement and stop his breathing.

Nevada refused Pfizer's demand last year to return the company's diazepam and fentanyl, which has been blamed for overdoses nationwide but has not been used in an execution.

In the legal challenge in Arkansas last year, McKesson Corp. said it wanted north-

ing to do with executions and accused the state of obtaining vecuronium bromide, a drug used to stop inmates' lungs, under false pretenses.

The Arkansas Supreme Court ruled against the company and allowed that execution to go forward, but legal questions about whether pharmaceutical companies can block use of their drugs in the death penalty haven't been resolved, Dunham said.

Dozier, who attempted suicide in the past, has said he prefers death to life behind bars. "I've been very clear about my desire to be executed ... even if suffering is inevitable," Dozier said in a handwritten note to a judge who postponed his execution in November over concerns the untried drug regimen could leave him suffocating, conscious and unable to move.

NATION

Coast Guard: All rescued from Alaska crash

By BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska — All 11 people aboard a plane that crashed Tuesday have been rescued in mountainous terrain on Prince of Wales Island in Alaska, officials said.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter located the crash site and hoisted the pilot and passengers to safety, Coast Guard Petty Officer Charly Hengen said.

"This could have been bad," she said. "Thankfully, it was a good outcome. Even though these people did sustain some injuries, we are very thankful that all are alive and that we were able to get to them quickly even with the weather conditions."

The people were taken to a staging area with emergency personnel onsite. The Coast Guard, in a news release, said all on board were reported to have received minor injuries but otherwise were in good condition. It provided no further detail on injuries.

"We had, I don't know how many, but I think probably every ambulance in town" responded, said Chris John, an incident commander with the Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Mischa Chernick, a spokes-



DUSTIN SAFRANEK, KETCHIKAN (ALASKA) DAILY NEWS/AP

Emergency responders assist a passenger injured in a crash of a Taquan Air plane in mountainous terrain on Alaska's Prince of Wales Island on Tuesday in Ketchikan, Alaska.

woman for PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center, said all 11 individuals from the plane were brought to the hospital and being assessed.

Hengen said there was roughly one-quarter mile of visibility as crews searched for the crash site about 40 miles southwest of Ketchikan. The downed aircraft had

an emergency locator that aided rescue efforts.

The crash site was at an elevation of about 2,000 feet on the side of a mountain. A photo distrib-

uted by the Coast Guard shows a white plane with blue trim on rocky terrain.

Clint Johnson, of the National Transportation Safety Board in Alaska, said the plane was a float-equipped de Havilland Otter aircraft.

Taquan Air, which conducts scheduled flights and sightseeing services, said it was a chartered flight.

The company said it had suspended all scheduled flights Tuesday and was cooperating with authorities. "It is imperative we understand the factors surrounding this incident to prevent similar ones," the company said in a statement.

Alaska State Troopers identified the pilot at Mike Hodgins, 72, of Ketchikan. Troopers said he reported the crash.

The pilot was flying from Prince of Wales Island and bound for Ketchikan when the crash occurred, according to the Troopers.

The heavily forested Prince of Wales Island near the southern tip of the Alaska Panhandle is the fourth-largest island in the U.S. At 2,577 square miles, it's larger than Delaware.

Newborn killed, dozens hurt when tornado hits ND city

Associated Press

WATFORD CITY, N.D. — A newborn baby was killed and more than two dozen people were injured when a tornado whipped through a North Dakota oil patch city overnight, overturning recreational vehicles and demolishing more than 100 structures, officials said Tuesday.

The storm moved through Watford City, in the northwestern part of the state, shortly after midnight, hitting an RV park the hardest, according to sheriff's officials. About 20 of the reported 28 injured were staying at the Prairie View RV Park where high winds overturned some campers and damaged mobile homes.

A crowdfunding campaign for the McKenzie County Sheriff's Office said in a news release late Tuesday that a 1-week-old boy died from injuries sustained when the family's trailer home flipped in the storm. The child's name was not immediately released.

A crowdfunding campaign has raised more than \$13,000 for the child's parents.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Paul Martin classified the tornado as an EF2, which is defined by wind speeds between 111 and 135 mph. He said wind speeds reached 127 mph in Watford City.

Clifford Bowden, 37, was in his recreational vehicle when the storm struck.

"My dog was with me, and the next thing you knew the storm picked up my camper and



HRI AERIAL IMAGING/AP

This aerial image from video shows damage at a recreational vehicle park Tuesday in Watford City, N.D., after a violent storm hit overnight.

slammed it on the ground. It felt like we were weightless," Bowden said.

"It was scary. I feel like I'm a pretty tough guy. But, this storm, it made me shake uncontrollably," he added.

McKenzie County Sheriff Gary Schwartzberger said his onsite commander reported 122 structures in the park were destroyed. In addition to those structures, there were 79 with moderate damage and 120 with minor to no damage.

Karolin Jappe, the McKenzie County emergency manager, said the RV park is one of the largest such facilities to spring up during the oil boom and there were some mobile homes on the property.

"There's more devastation than a tornado four years ago. RVs flipped over. Trucks underneath RVs," Jappe said.

Schwartzberger said his house half a mile from the RV park suffered siding, shingle and hail damage.

"It's a tornado scene," Schwartzberger said. "It went through and devastated an entire community down there. I've devastated myself at what has happened. I feel for the families."

Schwartzberger said the park residents were allowed back Tuesday afternoon to collect their belongings. He said the park would then be shut down and that cleanup operations would resume Wednesday morning.

Roundup suits can proceed

By SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Hundreds of lawsuits alleging Roundup weed killer caused cancer cleared a big hurdle Tuesday when a U.S. judge ruled that cancer victims and their families could present expert testimony linking the herbicide to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria said evidence that the active ingredient — in Roundup — glyphosate — can cause the disease seemed "rather weak." Still, the opinions of three experts linking glyphosate and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma were not "junk science" that should be excluded from a trial, the judge ruled.

The lawsuits say agrochemical giant Monsanto, which makes Roundup, long knew about the cancer risk but failed to warn people. The ruling allows the claims to move forward, though the judge warned it could be a "daunting challenge" to persuade him to allow a jury to hear testimony that glyphosate was responsible for individual cancer diagnoses.

Many government regulators have rejected a link between cancer and glyphosate. Monsanto has vehemently denied such a connection, saying hundreds of studies have established that the chemical is safe.

The firm is facing hundreds of lawsuits in state and federal courts that claim otherwise. Chhabria is presiding over more than 400 of them. A separate trial is underway in San Francisco in a lawsuit by a groundskeeper dying

of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma — the first case a jury has heard alleging Roundup caused cancer.

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NATION

A walk on the wild side can be fatal

Drunken pedestrians killed by vehicles a growing concern

By JENNI BERGAL
Stataline.org

WASHINGTON — It's 11 p.m. on a typical Saturday on U Street and music is blaring from the glittery bars and clubs. Many of the partiers, decked out in their finest, will stick around until the bars close at 3 a.m., then pour out onto the sidewalks — and sometimes into the streets.

"I've seen drunk people wandering into the street around 2 or 3 in the morning like zombies," said Austin Loan, a bouncer checking IDs at Hawthorne, a restaurant with five bar areas and DJs on the weekends. "When you get drunk you think you can rule the world. You may not be paying attention to anything else."

That could have deadly consequences.

Whether they're emptying out of bars, going home from football-watching parties or trying to get across the highway, drunken walkers are dying in traffic crashes nationwide at alarming numbers.

A third of pedestrians killed in crashes in 2016 were over the legal limit, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That's nearly 2,000 people — up more than 300 since 2014.

"Those numbers are pretty shocking," said Jonathan Adkins, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety offices. "We think this is a big problem."

Being drunk can affect your judgment and reaction time and result in poor decision-making and risky behavior, such as crossing an intersection against the light or cutting across a road mid-block, safety experts say. You may not even be thinking about whether drivers can see you.

And while there are lots of programs designed to reduce drunken driving and improve pedestrian safety, there's little out there aimed at impaired walkers.

"We've done a good job of educating people about drunk driving and the dangers," Adkins said. "But we haven't reminded people that if you're too hammered to get behind the wheel, you may be too hammered to walk home in the dark."

Pedestrian deaths are a growing concern. They jumped 27 percent from 2007 to 2016 while other U.S. traffic deaths dropped.

Distracted walking and alcohol consumption by drivers and pedestrians are contributing to the problem, federal data show.

And when alcohol impairment factors into a pedestrian death, it's more often the pedestrian than the driver who is drunk.

"Most people don't realize how big a problem it is to be walking while you are impaired," said Jessica Cicchino, a vice president at



ELLEN CREAGER, DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

Revelers drop necklaces from balconies on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Walking while drunk can lead to poor decision-making and risky acts, such as cutting across a road mid-block, safety experts say.

the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a nonprofit research group funded by auto insurance companies. "You're probably not going to be putting anyone else at risk, but you could be hurting yourself."

Drivers often don't see drunken pedestrians in the roadway until it's too late, Cicchino said, especially at night, when most deaths occur. Many are in urban and suburban areas. The victims, typically men between the ages of 21 and 59, are not crossing at an intersection, research shows.

"If your reflexes are impaired, you might be stumbling into the road and not able to act as quickly," Cicchino said.

Jonathan Adkins
Governors Highway
Safety Association
executive director

Some drunken walkers are killed on roads near downtown entertainment centers, but many are killed on higher speed, busier roads and highways. Some of the victims are homeless or transient.

In Austin, Texas, where a dozen drunken walkers died in 2016 and seven died in 2017, many crashes were on a stretch of Interstate 35, an eight-lane, high-speed highway divided by a concrete barrier, said police Detective Pat Oborski. The highway is lined with fast-food restaurants on one side and

low-cost motels on the other.

Drunken pedestrians cross the highway, going back and forth between the motels and restaurants located on frontage roads, Oborski said. While there's a bridge over the highway about a quarter of a mile away, some people figure it's easier to run across than to walk to the bridge.

Austin's pedestrian safety coordinator, Joel Meyer, said officials are aware of the drunken walker problem and are working on ways to make pedestrians more visible, such as providing safer crossings and improving street lighting.

In Delaware, where tourism is a major industry in its beachfront towns, officials also worry about impaired walkers. Seventy-seven impaired walkers in the state have died in crashes in the last five years, about half of pedestrian deaths.

"We know it's a problem," said Delaware Office of Highway Safety spokesman Mitch Topal. "People are having a good time at their hotel or their rental. And there are a lot of bars and restaurants. People are going from one place to another."

Officials have launched a media campaign to alert the public about the problem, Topal said. They've also sent out street teams to talk to pedestrians at the beaches and hand out reflective wristbands.

But nationwide, little has been done to address drunken pedestrian deaths, according to a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. There aren't many educational campaigns alerting people about the risk of alcohol impairment when walking or bicycling, the study found, and more research is needed to figure out how to prevent such deaths.

Among the study's recommen-

dations: lowering speed limits, improving roadway lighting and marketing ride-hailing services to pedestrians and bicyclists, just as they do for drivers who have had too much to drink.

Safety experts say states also need to broaden their anti-drunken driving campaigns to encourage pedestrians and bicyclists to opt for alternatives after heavy drinking.

But federal grants that help states fund impaired driving and pedestrian safety programs are very narrowly focused, said Adkins of the Governors Highway Safety Association.

"There are a lot of federal limitations, and these grants need to be reflective of our changing dynamics in transportation," he said. "There is a huge increase in pedestrians, bicyclists, scooters."

Some pedestrian advocates caution that officials need to be careful not to send out a message that blames the victims, who have tried to do the right thing by not getting behind the wheel when they've had too much to drink.

Instead, the priority should be on designing safer roadways, which will influence drivers' behavior and curb speeds where people are walking, said Brendan Kearney, a spokesman for WalkBoston.

Adkins said that while drivers and pedestrians have a shared responsibility to minimize risks, roads should be re-engineered to include pedestrian medians, barriers and bridges to create a safe system for pedestrians and drivers.

"We want to help everyone get home safely," he said. "Humans are always going to make an error. It shouldn't cost them their life."

Governor alters Ala. policy on jail meals

By KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — After some Alabama sheriffs profited large sums of money by skipping on jailhouse meals, Gov. Kay Ivey said Tuesday that the state will no longer give jail food funds to "sheriffs personally."

In a memo to the state comptroller, Ivey rescinded the state's 2008 policy of "paying prisoner food service allowances directly to sheriffs in their personal capacities." Ivey said the money should be directed to the county general fund or to an account established for the sheriff's official use.

"Public funds should be used for public purposes — it's that simple," Ivey said in a statement.

For years, some sheriffs have made extra money — sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars — under a Depression-era funding system that critics have argued gives a profit incentive to feed inmates poorly. A law passed in the days when chain gangs were common gives sheriffs \$1.75 a day to feed each prisoner and another statute said the sheriffs can "retain" excess money.

The move does not necessarily end the long-running dispute over sheriffs keeping leftover food funds, but it changes the path that the state money flows. Ivey urged lawmakers to pass legislation in the upcoming session clarifying that sheriffs can't keep the money as personal income.

The controversy has centered on the meaning of "retain" and whether that means personally or for official use. Ivey said the state should be following a 2011 attorney general's opinion that funds can only be used for "feeding prisoners." Her office said that trumped a 2008 opinion that said the sheriff can keep the money as "personal income" and set up the previous policy, instituted on May 1, 2008, of "paying the food service allowance to sheriffs as personal income."

"I have changed the way these funds are handled because it is the right thing to do," Ivey said. "The law is clear, the attorney general's opinion is clear and now we have been clear. I urge the Legislature to follow my lead and codify this policy into law during the next regular session."

Some sheriffs have significantly boosted their income from excess food funds.

A federal judge in 2009 held Morgan County Sheriff Greed Bartlett, who made \$212,000 over three years off excess food funds, in contempt of court for failing to feed inmates properly. Etowah County Sheriff Todd Entrenkin, who lost re-election, released tax forms showing he made a profit of \$67,392 from the jail kitchen in 2015 and 2016.

SCIENCE



RED SPRUCE REBOUND

PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW BY LISA RATHKE/AP

U.S. Forest Service scientist Paul Schaberg stands near a healthy red spruce tree growing on Mount Mansfield in Stowe, Vt., last month. Inset: Red spruce trees damaged by acid rain are visible among other trees near the peak of Camel's Hump in Duxbury, Vt., in this 1981 photo provided by the University of Vermont.

Species returning to health thanks to pollution controls that reduce acid rain

By LISA RATHKE
Associated Press

STOWE, Vt. — The gray trunks of red spruce trees killed by acid rain once heavily scarred the mountain forests of the Northeast. Now those forests are mostly green, with the crowns of red spruce peeking out of the canopy and saplings thriving below.

A main reason, scientists say, is a government-enforced reduction in the kind of air pollution that triggers acid rain.

"We've seen it go full arc from declining for some unknown reason, to figuring out the reason, to them doing something about the cause and then the tree responding and rebounding again," said Paul Schaberg, a plant physiologist with the U.S. Forest Service and a co-author of a new study on red spruce who has been researching the species since the 1980s. "It's just an amazing science arc."

In the 1960s through the 1980s, pollution — mostly from coal-powered plants in the Midwest and car emissions carried by the wind and deposited as acidic rain, snow and fog — devastated Northeast forests and lakes, leaching nutrients from soil and killing aquatic life.

Red spruce are particularly sensitive to acid rain and, at the height of the die-off,



Alexandra Kosiba, staff scientist with the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative at the University of Vermont, holds pine cones from red spruce trees growing on Mount Mansfield.

some forests lost 50 percent of them.

But decades later, not all the environmental damage is turning around at the pace of the red spruce.

Waterways are now showing signs of recovery, as are the upper layers of soil, although they are still strained by the acid deposits. Researchers are finding fish in lakes deemed fishless for years, but the populations are not large and the variety of species is not as diverse as before, said Gregory Lawrence, a research scientist

with the U.S. Geological Survey who is based in Troy, N.Y.

In the 1980s, University of Vermont scientist Hubert Vogelmann brought national attention to the acid rain issue by linking air pollution to forest damage on the slopes of Vermont's Green Mountains. Airborne chemicals reacted with water and oxygen and then, carried by the wind, were deposited as acidic rain, snow and fog.

The images of dead trees littering mountains in the 1980s helped inspire changes to the Clean Air Act in 1990. The amendments proposed by President George H.W. Bush in 1989 mandated reductions in certain gas emissions and boosted regulation of toxic pollutants.

The first signs of healthier red spruce trees in the northeastern U.S. came about five years ago, scientists said, and they decided to take a closer look.

The researchers examined 658 red spruce trees in 52 plots in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts and Maine. They found that 75 percent of the trees and 90 percent of the plots showed increasing growth since 2001. They credit cleaner air and a warming climate that extended the growing season.

"Higher temperatures help some species and hurt others. Right now, red spruce are benefiting, but they could be vulnerable to

change in the future," Schaberg said.

Similar trends are emerging in the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia, which were also hit by acid rain, according to a recent report in the *Global Change Biology* journal.

The two studies provide further evidence that addressing causes of acid rain helped the species recover, said Timothy Fahey, a forest ecologist and professor at Cornell University.

That recovery should help efforts to restore red spruce forests to mountains in central Appalachia, where they were heavily logged in the late 1800s and early 1900s, reducing the habitat for the now-endangered Carolina northern flying squirrel.

Last month in Vermont, Schaberg was hiking through the woods on Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak, with Alexandra Kosiba, lead researcher for their study in the *Journal of Science of the Total Environment*. They found red spruce at middle elevations and higher that were thriving. The trees were surrounded by saplings, and seed-bearing cones lay on the ground.

"This is a good sign that the species is doing well in the near term, and then the future forests will have red spruce," said Kosiba, a staff scientist for the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative at the University of Vermont.

WORLD

Boys drank dripping water to survive in cave

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA

Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand — The soccer teammates rescued from a flooded cave in Thailand lost weight during their 18-day ordeal and in the days before their discovery survived by drinking water dripping into their refuge, a health official said Wednesday.

The 12 boys and coach rescued over the three previous days “took care of themselves well in the cave,” Thongchai Lertwilairatanapong, a public health inspector, said at a news conference at the hospital in Chiang Rai city where the group is recovering.

The four boys rescued Sunday can eat

normal food and walk around, and the four pulled out Monday were eating soft food. Thongchai said one member of the final group of four boys and the coach who arrived at the hospital Tuesday evening had a slight lung infection.

Two of the first group had a lung infection as well, and Thongchai said they would need medicine for seven days.

The average weight loss was 4.4 pounds for those with known information, Thongchai said. They were able to obtain water dripping inside the cave.

“To not receive food, we can still survive for many months but what’s necessary is water, which the cave has, and around this time there’s a lot in the cave, and they

chose clean water to drink,” he said.

The group had entered the sprawling Tham Luang cave to go exploring after soccer practice on June 23, but monsoon rains soon filled the tight passageways, blocking their escape. They were found by a pair of British divers 10 days later, huddled on a small, dry shelf just above the water, smiling with relief but visibly skinny.

The complex, high-risk mission for international and Thai divers to guide the boys and coach through the cave’s flooded and tight passageways had riveted people worldwide. Highlighting the dangers, a former Thai navy SEAL volunteering to work on the rescue efforts died Friday while replenishing oxygen canisters that

were placed along the escape route.

Each of the boys, ages 11 to 16 and with no diving experience, was guided out by a pair of divers though rocky, muddy and water passages that in places were just a crawl space.

The method was extremely risky, but dwindling oxygen levels in the cave and fears of more monsoon rains to come made a decision urgent.

Relatively mild weather and a massive effort to pump out water created a window of opportunity. And the confidence of the diving team, and expertise specific to the cave, grew after its first successful mission Sunday.



SHINGO NISHIZUME, KYODO NEWS/AP

Police use sticks during a search operation at a mud-covered area in the aftermath of heavy rains in Kure, Hiroshima prefecture, Japan, on Wednesday. Rescuers were searching for dozens of people missing after heavy rains unleashed flooding and mudslides.

Abe visits flood-ravaged region of Japan

By HARUKA NUGA
AND MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan — Residents shoveled mud and debris to clear streets so they could get out for food and other supplies Wednesday in areas of western Japan hard hit by landslides and flooding that still swamped some areas.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited an evacuation center in the city of Kurashiki in Okayama prefecture, where more than 40 of the 176 victims died. He ducked in front of an elderly woman sitting on the floor, and pledged to her that his government will do its utmost to bring back her ordinary life as soon as possible. About 200 residents were taking refuge at the shelter he visited.

Tens of thousands of rescue and recovery workers and volunteers were searching for people still missing.

In areas where search and rescue operations had ended, construction workers and residents worked in neighborhoods to clear mud and debris and restore vehicle access to the outside and get supplies and food.

In Hiroshima’s Asakita ward, resident Nobuaki Hyuga walked to a neighborhood convenience store but could find only ice cream and juices so he had to go farther to find bread and other foods. “We are cut off from the road and we can’t go anywhere by car,” Hyuga said.

Construction worker Fukuyoshi Doi volunteered to get that done and supervised other volunteers who gathered to help.

“Mud and dirt is still blocking our local bus route, so we are trying to get that out of the way so the road can be reopened for buses and cars,” he said. “Once we get the mud out, I believe the rest of the work would pick up.”

The government said 176 people have been confirmed dead after the record-setting rainfall last week caused severe flooding and landslides. Most of the deaths were in Hiroshima and the surrounding area, but the damage was widespread.

The government has mobilized 75,000 troops and emergency workers and some 80 helicopters for the search and rescue effort, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said.

Delivery companies Sagawa Express Co. and Yamato Transport Co. and cargo service Japan

Freight Railway Co. said some of their shipments to and from the flooded areas have been suspended or reduced. Supermarkets have closed stores or shortened hours due to delivery delays and supply shortages.

Thousands of homes were still without clean water and electricity. Residents lined up for water under a scorching sun as temperatures rose to 95 degrees Fahrenheit, raising the risk of heat stroke.

Suga said earlier the government was spending \$18 million to hasten deliveries of supplies and other support for evacuation centers and residents.

Abe canceled a planned trip to Europe and the Middle East this week to oversee the emergency response.

German neo-Nazi found guilty of 10 killings

Associated Press

MUNICH — A German court on Wednesday found the main defendant in a high-profile neo-Nazi trial guilty in the killing of 10 people — most of them migrants — who were gunned down between 2000 and 2007 in a case that shocked Germany and prompted accusations of institutional racism in the country’s security agencies.

Beate Zschaepe was sentenced to life in prison for murder, membership in a terrorist organization, bomb attacks that injured dozens and several lesser crimes including a string of robberies. Four men were found guilty of supporting the group in various ways and sentenced to prison terms of between 2½ and 10 years.

Presiding judge Manfred Goetzl told a packed courtroom that Zschaepe’s guilt weighed particularly heavily, meaning she is likely to serve at least a 15-year sentence. Her lawyers plan to appeal the verdict.

Zschaepe, 43, showed no emotion as Goetzl read her sentence. A number of far-right activists attending the trial clapped when one of the co-accused, Andre Emminger, received a lower sentence than expected.

Zschaepe was arrested in 2011, shortly after her two accomplices were found dead in an apparent murder-suicide. Together with the men, Uwe Mundlos and Uwe Bodehnard, she had formed the National Socialist Movement, a group that pursued an ideology of white racial supremacy by targeting migrants, mostly of Turkish origin.

Goetzl said the trio agreed in late 1998 to kill people “for anti-Semitic or other racist motivations” in order to intimidate ethnic minorities and portray the state as impotent.

They planned to wait until they had committed a series of killings before revealing their responsibility in order to increase the public impact of their crimes.

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Lt. Col. Sean Kilmree, Europe commander
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croyley, Managing Editor for Content
croyley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com

Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacciolli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacciolli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)(202)761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
Brown Brothers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
brothers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9150, DSN (314)583.9150

Europe

Van Rowell, rowell.van@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81.3.6385.3171, DSN (315)229.3171
or by phone at 202.761.0900

CONTACT US

Washington

tel. (+1)202.761.0900, DSN (312)763.0900;
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

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OPINION

Trump's diplomacy mirrors his empire saga

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON
Watching President Donald Trump's diplomatic maneuvers in Singapore last month and in the runup to his meetings over the next week in Brussels and Helsinki—I wonder whether analysts have been making a mistake explaining his bargaining style in terms of the brash young personality described in his 1987 memoir, "The Art of the Deal."

The Trump we're watching is a much needier person than the youthful tycoon who vaulted to the top of the world. The current version of Trump sees himself as chief executive not of a thriving enterprise, but of one that has nearly been run into the ground by his predecessors. Rather than warmly embracing longtime partners in Europe, he resents them and their success. He picks needless fights and tries to humiliate people he feels have slighted him.

This scarred, prickly Trump is looking for new friends and investors. It's almost as if he's ready to fold under the losing hand and draw a fresh set of cards—ones in this case bearing the faces of North Korea's Kim Jong Un, China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Perhaps the Trump book to read these days is his 1997 memoir of life near bankruptcy, "The Art of the Comeback." The author is feisty, but he's also wounded. He has bluffed and bargained his way back from the brink. But he's made a lot of enemies in the process. Many of his former lenders mistrust him. In the book, he's already hanging out with Russian, Chinese and Arab big shots who may be able to recapitalize his lost empire.

I took tremendous punishment as I watched my empire collapsing around me.

Trump is investing in a new set of friends and forging past transgressions to build a new portfolio.

... It crushed my ego, my pride," he says of his 1990 risk of personal bankruptcy. Trump survived through a combination of bluster and sweet talk. He warned his lenders that he could tie them up for years with lawsuits and bankruptcy proceedings. But instead, he offered the bankers a deal: If they provided another \$65 million line of credit and backed off for five years, he'd pay them all back. They agreed, and Trump floated back to prosperity during the boom of the 1990s.

What does this narrative tell us about the zigzag diplomacy of the last few months? First, Trump's braggadocio masks a deep uneasiness about America's position in the world. The idealistic, generous national self-image that sustained America through a century of global dominance doesn't seem to resonate with Trump. He sees the country as exhausted, played out, bled financially by its allies and manipulated by its trading partners.

Trump's core pessimism goes against the American grain, in my view, but perhaps it's understandable in a man who almost went bankrupt. This bleak vision has shaped his presidency ever since he spoke of "American carnage" in his inaugural address. That speech included a line that may be the Rosetta Stone of his foreign policy: "We've made other countries rich while the wealth, strength and confidence of our country has disappeared over the horizon."

A resentful Trump has scorned old allies. We'll see the latest iteration at the week's NATO summit. He continued his whining Tuesday as he headed for Brussels, claim-

ing "We're being taken advantage of by the European Union," and that U.S. support for NATO "helps them a lot more than it helps us."

Meanwhile, Trump is investing in a new set of friends and forging past transgressions to build a new portfolio. Trump expresses this slate-clearing agenda with almost childlike simplicity: "I think that getting along with Russia, getting along with China ... is a good thing." Who could disagree, but at what cost, and with what benefit?

Trump's diplomacy with Kim is the most interesting test of where his reshuffle-the-deck strategy is headed. Trump wanted success in Singapore so badly that he staged the triumphal handshake first, against a backdrop of inter-furled North Korean and American flags, and left the actual negotiations on denuclearization for later by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

North Korea's rebuke of Pompeo for "gangster-like" demands on denuclearization got the headlines last week. But perhaps a more telling part of the North Korean foreign ministry's statement was its elaborate flattery of Trump and plea for concessions. Before Pyongyang delivers an inventory of weapons to begin denuclearization, for example, it seems to want a formal declaration ending the Korean War.

"We still cherish our good faith in President Trump," said a fawning passage in the otherwise snarling statement. It must be said, they know their man—the embattled, wounded, hungry-for-new-partners "Comeback" artist.

Boris Johnson's lesson for his fellow populists

By FERDINANDO GIUGLIANO
Bloomberg Opinion

Boris Johnson and David Davis, Britain's freshly departed Brexiters ministers, are a cautionary tale for anti-establishment politicians across Europe.

The U.K.'s Brexiters quit the European Union was hailed as the beginning of a continent-wide transformation, which would see national governments claim back control from the Brussels bureaucrats. Yet the failure of the now former foreign secretary and the ex-Brexit secretary to devise a plan for how to actually do this is instructive.

Both have now abandoned Theresa May's Cabinet and retreated to the comfort of like minds on parliament's backbenches, perhaps to plot her removal or perhaps not. Who knows, maybe Johnson will finally satisfy his own vaunting ambition and usurp May, but it's a long shot. Other political leaders should look at his parable: It's far easier to shout abuse against the EU than to guide your country out of it.

Much like tragic drama, the anti-EU revolts in places like Greece, Italy and the U.K. are starting to follow a similar pattern. The first step is "overpromising," whereby populist politicians convince the public that they alone can deliver what mainstream opponents have failed to achieve. This typically involves being able to extract EU concessions that are vastly superior to anything seen before.

For Johnson and Davis, these empty pledges included keeping the kind of access British companies enjoy in the single market while being at liberty to strike other trade deals and restrict immigra-

tion from the EU. Of course, Brussels was never going to agree to this and never will—regardless of whether it's May they're negotiating with or Johnson. Most European leaders believe the four pillars of the single European market (the freedom of movement of labor, goods, services and capital) are indivisible and inviolate. But Brexiters built an entire campaign around the claim that they weren't.

Johnson and Davis are in excellent company. Alexis Tsipras convinced Greek voters that he alone could keep the country in the single currency while negotiating a much looser rescue program than his predecessors. In Italy, the populist League and Five Star Movement have spent years saying they could force the EU and the financial markets to let Rome run a much higher budget deficit than the rules allowed.

The second phase of populism is "victory," when the public gives the anti-EU brigades a shot at making good on their promises. Johnson and Davis were both brought into government to help shape the Brexit plan. Davis was even put in charge of running the talks with Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator. Yet in two years, they have come up with a violent alternative to the softer Brexit strategy agreed to by May and her ministers on Friday at her country house Chequers.

Indeed, all the gifts offered by the U.K. "Leave" team have turned out to be fantasy. The unity of European countries hasn't crumbled and the commitment to the "four freedoms" hasn't budged. Last weekend's proposals are in fact a humiliating climbdown for the Brexiters—hence the resignations. Here are the likely third

and fourth stages of populism: "underdelivery" and "betrayal."

As determined and ruthless a politician as Johnson can't be ruled out entirely, but it's impossible to see how he can emerge victorious here. A "no-deal" Brexit is the nuclear option but the economic damage from that would hardly match the "sunlit uplands" that Johnson promised voters alongside Britain's unique ability to "have it all and eat it too."

Greece is a similar tale. Tsipras is still in government (although Yanis Varoufakis, his former finance minister, isn't), but he faces a steep challenge to win the next election after failing to give Greek voters what he'd promised. Austerity has continued, and even a deal on debt relief doesn't include a face-value reduction. In Italy, the League and Five Star coalition is barely a month old. But it too has begun to backtrack on many campaign promises. It won't take long for disillusionment to kick in.

For all the populist swagger, it's incredibly difficult to go against the collective will of all the other EU member states. The Brussels bureaucracy may be an easy target rhetorically but they're a hard opponent, precisely because they have very little flexibility to deviate from the agreed rules. Of course, EU member states might one day realize that this is all too much to bear and that countries need to be free to set their own course. But until then, the Johnsons and Davises of Europe are destined to fail.

Ferdinando Giugliano writes columns and editorials on European economics for Bloomberg Opinion. He is also an economics columnist for La Repubblica and was a member of the editorial board of the Financial Times.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Woman threw 2 kittens into pond

ME PHIPPSBURG — Police in Maine said they rescued two kittens from a pond and they accused the kittens' owner of being inebriated and repeatedly tossing the animals into the water.

Phippsburg police Chief John Skroski said Justine Lovig was charged with operating under the influence, cruelty to animals and violation of probation.

He told the Bangor Daily News that an officer arrived to find Lovig emerging from a pond with two soaked kittens on July 4.

The kittens were taken to Coastal Humane Society in Brunswick.

Family's insurance pays for toppled sculpture

KS OVERLAND PARK — A city in Kansas has received \$107,000 from a family's insurance company after a 5-year-old boy accidentally knocked over a sculpture at a community center.

Overland Park spokesman Sean Reilly said the city plans to send \$99,000 to artist Bill Lyons, who created "Aphrodite of Kansas City." Reilly said that's the amount Lyons would've received had the sculpture sold at the center's art fair.

The sculpture was damaged in May at the Tomahawk Ridge Community Center. A video showed the child wrapping his arms around it and then struggling to hold it up as it fell.

Boyfriend assaulted for changing TV channel

NC LEXINGTON — Sheriff's deputies in North Carolina have accused a woman of biting her boyfriend after he changed the channel on a television she was watching.

The Winston-Salem Journal reported that the Davidson County Sheriff's Office said the man told investigators Abby Nicole Saunders, 21, attacked him Saturday when he went into a bedroom to change the channel on the television.

Deputies said the man sustained bite marks on his neck, right forearm and the inside of his left arm. He also has a red mark on his chest where investigators said Saunders hit him.

Agents find opium taped to buttocks

CA EL CENTRO — Authorities in Southern California arrested a man they said tried to smuggle more than 2 pounds of opium paste by taping it to his buttocks.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said drug-sniffing dogs zeroed in on the 28-year-old man's SUV last week at a checkpoint along a rural Imperial County freeway north of the Mexican border.

Spokesman Jose Enriquez Jr. said agents discovered opium paste strapped to the man's buttocks under his pants and

THE CENSUS

\$1K

The approximate value of razors a man stole from a Stop & Shop in Massachusetts on Friday. The Braintree Police Department posted a message on Facebook on Monday night asking for anyone with information on the suspect to contact police or for the suspect to turn himself in. The post says the police will give the smooth criminal a "big internet high five" for doing the right thing. The theft was not reported until Monday. Video surveillance shows the man to be wearing a gray sweatshirt and pants.



WARREN DILLAWAY, THE (ASHTABULA, OHIO) STAR-BEACON/AP

Playing chicken

Charles and Sarah Queen, of Boardman, Ohio, do battle on inflatable chickens Monday at Conneaut Township Park Beach in Conneaut, Ohio.

above his underwear. The paste contained up to 12 percent morphine.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported the drug's estimated street value is more than \$70,000.

Mighty Mike leaving aquarium in fall

KY NEWPORT — Visitors to the Newport Aquarium in northern Kentucky have two more months to see Mighty Mike, the largest American alligator outside of Florida.

The Kentucky Enquirer reported the last chance to see the 14-foot, 800-pound alligator before he heads back to Florida is Sept. 9.

Newport Aquarium Executive Director Eric Rose said in a statement that educating the public about alligators is critical to helping the animals sustain populations after being listed as endangered for decades.

Mighty Mike will be taken to the Crocodilian Conservation Center in Frostproof, Fla.

Police say man faked his own kidnapping

WV MORGANTOWN — Police said a West Virginia man is accused of faking his own kidnapping to get money

from his family.

WBOY-TV reported that Monongalia County sheriff's deputies arrested Preston Smith, 24, of Morgantown. Smith was charged with conspiracy and was being held on \$10,000 bond in the Northern Regional Jail.

Deputies said Smith allegedly sent a text message and called his brother indicating he was being held at gunpoint and that a kidnapper was demanding \$2,000 in order to release Smith.

Smith's brother called the sheriff's department, and deputies found Smith without anyone holding him against his will.

Man arrested in threats to mom, police officer

WA BREMERTON — Bremerton police arrested a 37-year-old man who they allege threatened his mother and an officer with a machete.

Police were called to the home about 8 p.m. Sunday on a report of a domestic violence incident involving a mother and her son.

While an officer spoke with the mother outside, police allege the man approached with a machete, threatening to kill them. He then barricaded himself in the house.

The state patrol and Kitsap County Sheriff's Office secured a warrant and entered the home.

They recovered the machete and discovered the man had fled.

Police said they found the suspect in downtown Bremerton. He was arrested on domestic assault and felony harassment charges.

Man, yanks woman's hijab, turns himself in

NH MANCHESTER — Police in New Hampshire said a man accused of yanking on a woman's hijab at a restaurant turned himself in.

Authorities said the 25-year-old woman was sitting at a table at The Farm in Manchester on June 22 when the man, unfamiliar to her, pulled on her hijab without saying a word. The head scarf is worn by some Muslim women.

He left shortly afterward when the woman's co-workers confronted him at the bar. Police said the woman suffered discomfort for her chin and head.

They said Robert Carrigg, 45, of Hooksett, went to police Tuesday following an arrest warrant charging him with simple assault.

Police say man died after swallowing drugs

VA WAYNESBORO — Authorities said a Virginia man choked to death after swal-

lowing an apparent bag of cocaine during a police raid.

News outlets reported William Tucker, 52, of Waynesboro died afterward.

Police said a drug task force and a Waynesboro police SWAT team went to a Waynesboro home for a drug investigation. When they entered, police said, they found Tucker forcing a bag filled with white powder into his mouth.

Police said Tucker lost consciousness while resisting attempts to remove the bag and was declared dead at a hospital.

Trail offers visitors taste of food, drink

VT MONTPELIER — Visitors to Vermont can now take a culinary route through the Champlain Valley by visiting food producers, restaurants, farms, breweries and wineries on the state's new tasting trail.

Officials said the Lake Champlain Tasting Trail is part of a larger effort to develop an international culinary trail in Vermont, New York, Ontario and Quebec that would focus on farm and food experiences.

Vermont's trail includes sites in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties that meet certain criteria and standards.

From wire reports

FACES

Bringing the laughs

'Daily Show' correspondent Minhaj readies his 'insightful' tour, Netflix series

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Fresh off a breakout year in 2017, comedian Hasan Minhaj is ready to turn his wit to diagnosing the larger issues facing America.

Minhaj, a correspondent with "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central, is kicking off a North American tour starting in August and this fall will host his own weekly comedy show for Netflix.

"I wanted to go on tour again and present what I think will be sort of cool, insightful commentary on both the political and cultural landscape of the country that we live in right now," he told the AP.

"I have no desire — not only in the show but also in the series — to chase covfefe," he said, referring to the mysterious term President Donald Trump introduced last year on Twitter. "I have no desire to do that."

Minhaj instead wants to fuse his personal narrative as a first-generation Indian-American navigating between those two worlds with the current political and social backdrop to examine deep issues confronting the nation.

"A lot people turn to daily satirical news shows to just say, 'Hey, what is going on? Please explain it to me and break it down for me in a 7 1/2-minute act.' What I have the opportunity to do — not only in a one-hour show but also hopefully in the series — is to talk about why things are happening and what larger questions it presents to ourselves as Americans."

Last year, Minhaj hosted the first White House Correspondents' Dinner since Trump's election and saw the release of his first comedy special, the

autobiographical "Hasan Minhaj: Homecoming King," which earned the comedian a Peabody Award.

The new tour, titled "Hasan Minhaj: Before the Storm," starts Aug. 11 with a two-night stand in Los Angeles. He will reach cities like Atlanta, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Boston, Milwaukee, Dallas, Minneapolis and Chicago. He hopes fans will be "pleasantly surprised" by his new material.

Minhaj has noted a thirst for comedy during these hectic and divisive days that have put fellow comedians like Kathy Griffin and Michelle Wolf under a microscope. He hopes there can be a nuanced view of a person's work,

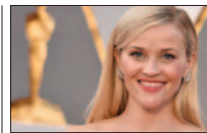
even if that seems impossible in a tweet.

"Ultimately, we are satirists and comedians and the necessary condition to tell our story is that it has to be funny. So people will come up to me and say, 'Hasan, you have to talk about Syria,' or 'You have to talk about what's happening in Rohingya right now.' If I can't make it funny, unfortunately I cannot do a show on it," he said.

"If we can make it funny, that's where, rightfully so, the John Oliver and Jon Stewart and Trevor Noahs of the world get their applause and praise from. Like, 'Wow, they were able to turn this very dark piece of legislation or piece of news into something positive.'"

Comedian Hasan Minhaj — in a scene from his Netflix special, "Homecoming King," — is kicking off a North American tour in August and will host his own weekly comedy show for Netflix this fall.

NETFLIX/AP



AP

Reese Witherspoon adds more to her ever-expanding empire

Reese Witherspoon's media company, Hello Sunshine, announced Tuesday that it is teaming up with AT&T to launch a video-on-demand channel. According to a press release, Witherspoon will headline her own unscripted series "Shine On With Reese," featuring interviews with prominent women including filmmaker Ava DuVernay, singer Dolly Parton and actress America Ferrera.

Hello Sunshine's VOD channel is only the latest project in the actress' ever-expanding empire.

Witherspoon used to recommend compelling books by women through her Instagram, but now she also does it through the eponymous Reese's Book Club. (We wonder if Witherspoon will include her own book, "Whiskey in a Teacup," due Sept. 18.)

But you can't really talk about Witherspoon's book club without talking about her production company, Pacific Standard, which she co-founded with Bruna Paundrea in 2012 (the two parted ways in 2016). Witherspoon later told the Hollywood Reporter that she started the company, now a subsidiary of Hello Sunshine, because she was frustrated with the "complete lack of interesting female leads in film." In 2014, she brought two of the first books optioned by the company to the big screen: Gillian Flynn's psychological thriller "Gone Girl" and Cheryl Strayed's memoir "Wild."

Last year, Witherspoon's reliable book recommendations gave us HBO's award-winning "Big Little Lies." Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman, her "Big Little Lies" co-producer and co-star, also optioned Lianne Moriarty's "Truly Madly Guilty." And there are other projects in various stages of development. Witherspoon is producing and starring alongside Kerry Washington in a limited series adaptation of Celeste Ng's "Little Fires Everywhere," which received an eight-episode order from Hulu earlier this year.

Apple has snagged three Witherspoon-produced series. Witherspoon will also co-produce a 10-episode comedy with "Saturday Night Live" writer and producer Tig Notaro, who will be the show's lead, and will co-produce and star alongside Jennifer Aniston in a drama about a morning show.

Hello Sunshine also optioned Gail Honeyman's debut novel, "Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine," and Catherine Steadman's "Something in the Water."

Outside of film and TV, Witherspoon has Draper James, a lifestyle brand, which sells upscale clothing, housewares and — it was announced Monday evening — Witherspoon recently confirmed that there will be a third "Legally Blonde" movie.

From The Washington Post

Release date for 5th Indiana Jones movie pushed back

From wire reports

Indiana Jones won't be swinging back into movie theaters until at least 2021.

The Walt Disney Co. on Tuesday announced that the planned fifth installment in the Indiana Jones franchise will be delayed a year and will be released in July 2021. The film was originally scheduled for release in the summer of 2019.

Script issues are reportedly behind the delay. Last month, "Solo: A Star Wars Story" co-screenwriter Jonathan Kasdan was brought on to help write the film.

Steven Spielberg is set to direct the latest Indiana Jones film, with Harrison Ford reprising his role. Ford turns 79 in July 2021.

Palin claims Cohen duped her for talk

Sarah Palin says she was "duped." The former Republican vice

presidential candidate says she fell victim to British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen during an interview for his upcoming Showtime series, "Who Is America?"

In a Facebook post on Tuesday, the former Alaska governor wrote she and a daughter traveled across the country for what she thought was a legitimate interview. But she says Cohen had "heavily disguised himself" as a disabled U.S. veteran in a wheelchair.

Palin says she sat through what she called a long interview full of "Hollywoodism's disrespect and sarcasm" before she walked out.

She is challenging Cohen and Showtime to donate proceeds from the show to a veterans' charity.

The show premieres Sunday.

Stan Lee drops \$1-billion suit

In the latest plot twist to his fraught personal saga, Stan Lee has dropped his \$1-billion lawsuit

against Pow Entertainment, the Los Angeles-based media outfit he co-founded in 2001 that was sold to a Hong Kong company last year.

The 95-year-old comic book legend behind Spider-Man and other Marvel superheroes said in a statement Monday that he was happy to put the dispute behind him.

In the original suit, filed in May in Los Angeles Superior Court, Lee claimed that his business partners had sold the company under fraudulent circumstances. The suit alleged that Pow leaders took advantage of Lee's emotionally distraught state after the death last year of his wife, Joan, to push the deal through.

Cansing International, the Hong Kong-based company that now controls Pow, said at the time that the accusations were "without merit" and questioned the motive of the complaint.

Pow's Chief Executive Shane Duffy said in a statement Mon-

day that the company is planning to work with Lee again.

Other news

■ **Cardi B** is celebrating the birth of her first child. The 25-year-old rapper welcomed daughter Kiarri Cephus during a post on Instagram on Wednesday. The girl was born Tuesday. The announcement comes two weeks after Cardi B, whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, confirmed she and rapper Offset married in 2017. This is the fourth child for Offset, whose real name is Kiarri Cephus.

■ **Whitney Houston's** mother says allegations that her superstar daughter and her son were molested by her niece are "unfathomable." In a statement to movie magazine on behalf of herself and sister, singer Dionne Warwick, Cissy Houston revealed they first learned of the claims two days before the documentary "Whitney" premiered in May.

Stripes

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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BUSINESS/WEATHER

European exporters move to avoid US tariffs

By JOE McDONALD

Associated Press

BEIJING — European companies that export from China are changing the global flow of their goods to avoid higher American tariffs, a business group said Tuesday as the impact of the U.S.-China trade war spreads.

Tariff increases are "hitting immediately the bottom line" of companies that rely on the free flow of trade across countries, said Mats Harborn, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Companies are "scrambling to readjust supply chains" so U.S.-bound goods don't pass through China, Harborn said at a news conference. He said one shift was final assembly of goods to a newly created American unit.

The Trump administration's tariff increase on medical equip-

China vows retaliation for US tariff threat

BEIJING — China slammed the latest U.S. tariff threat as a "totally unacceptable" escalation of their trade battle and vowed Wednesday to protect its "core interests."

The Commerce Ministry gave no details of possible retaliation but Beijing earlier threatened "comprehensive measures." That prompted fears it might go beyond matching Washington's duty increases by disrupting operations for U.S. companies in China.

The spiraling conflict over U.S. complaints about Chinese technology policy has prompted warnings it might chill global economic growth.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Trade Representative's office announced a \$200 billion list of Chinese goods for possible 10 percent tariffs including fish, apples and burglar alarms.

From the Associated Press

ment, electronics and other goods from China apply to exports made by U.S. or European companies as well as Chinese suppliers. Washington imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion of goods in

response to complaints Beijing is hurting American companies by stealing or pressuring enterprises to hand over technology.

European governments have criticized President Donald

Trump's approach but have resisted Chinese efforts to recruit them as allies in their dispute.

Tariffs are a "dangerous and very blunt instrument," Harborn said. "We share the concerns expressed by the American side. But there are better and less risky ways to deal with these problems."

Also Tuesday, China stepped up action against some U.S. goods by announcing anti-dumping duties raw materials used in making optical fibers.

Optical fiber preforms from the United States and Japan will face additional duties of 37.9 to 78.2 percent for five years, the Ministry of Commerce announced.

Chinese leaders have emphasized the benefits to foreign companies from trading with the world's second-largest economy in an effort to deflect pressure to change industrial plans commu-

nist leaders see as a route to prosperity and global influence.

On Monday, Chinese and German companies including BASF and Volkswagen signed business deals worth \$23.6 billion during a visit to Berlin by China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Keqiang.

Also Monday, German automaker BMW AG said it would raise prices on U.S.-built SUVs exported to China due to higher tariffs. BMW exports SUVs from a factory in Spartanburg, S.C., that employs 10,000 people.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 12)	\$1.2955
Dollar buys (July 12)	69.8295
British pound (July 12)	\$1.36
Japanese yen (July 12)	108.60
South Korean won (July 12)	1,092.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3796
British pound	\$1.3268
Canada (Dollar)	1.3139
China (Yuan)	6.6745
Denmark (Krone)	6.3458
Egypt (Pound)	17.8998
Euro	\$1.1746/0.8513
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8490
Hungary (Forint)	276.28
Israel (Shekel)	3.6355
Japan (Yen)	111.20
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3026
Norway (Krone)	8.0431
Philippines (Peso)	53.54
Poland (Zloty)	3.68
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3594
South Korea (Won)	1,121.57
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9918
Thailand (Baht)	33.27
Turkey (New Lira)	4.7750

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federals funds market rate	3.81
3-month bill	1.94
30-year bond	2.96

BMW leaves expansion plans for SC factory unchanged

Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — BMW says it is sticking with plans to add 1,000 workers in South Carolina, even though the company will start production of a new vehicle in China.

BMW and Chinese partner Brilliance Automotive Group Holdings said Monday a joint venture called BMW Brilliance Automotive will increase the number of vehicles made annually at two plants in China to 520,000 next year.

Spokesman Ken Sparks told the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg that BMW's new electric iX3 SUV will be produced only in

China, and that effort won't affect production of the new X7 model in South Carolina.

"It is not true in any way, shape or form that BMW is moving production from Spartanburg to China," Sparks said.

But BMW's U.S. manufacturing remains vulnerable to a trade war. China already imposed an additional 25 percent charge on vehicles from the U.S., prompting BMW this week to announce higher Chinese sticker prices.

The South Carolina plant exports more than two-thirds of the 400,000 vehicles it produces annually, mostly to China, followed by Germany.

BMW recently wrote U.S. Com-

merce Secretary Wilbur Ross saying the tariffs would raise the cost of doing business in the United States and could risk cutting production and jobs at the Spartanburg plant. The company said the tariffs could jeopardize 45,000 jobs in South Carolina, 10,000 currently at the Spartanburg plant and 35,000 at BMW suppliers.

It's unknown whether or when higher prices overseas will depress demand enough to prompt BMW to change its plans for Spartanburg.

Sparks said BMW has not changed plans to expand in Spartanburg and start production of the new X7 model later this year.

The company plans to spend \$600 million and add 1,000 jobs by 2021. BMW says the hiring would bring Spartanburg employment to about 11,000 jobs.

MARKET WATCH

July 10, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	143.07
	24,919.66
Nasdaq composite	3.00
	7,759.20
Standard & Poor's 500	9.67
	2,793.84
Russell 2000	-8.98
	1,695.62

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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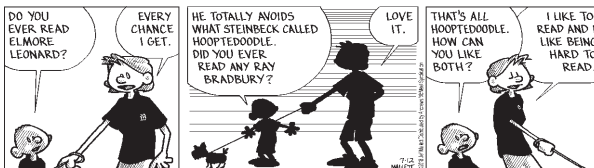
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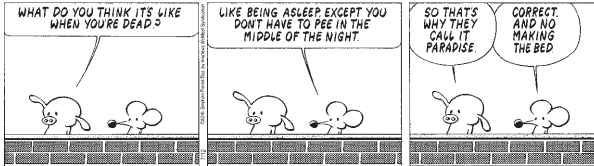
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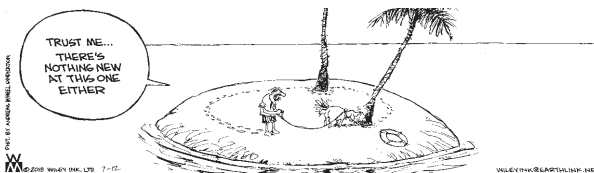
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
18							19	20			
		21			22	23					
24	25	26			27			28		29	30
31					32				33		
34			35		36				37		
		38		39			40				
41	42					43			44	45	46
47				48	49	50					
51				52				53			
54				55					56		

ACROSS

- 1 Indy event
- 5 Coralls
- 9 Moment
- 12 Thor's father
- 13 — Romeo
- 14 Sch. URL ender
- 15 Monet subject
- 17 Melody
- 18 Smug looks
- 19 Scattered seed
- 21 "Monopoly" square
- 22 Hello hello
- 24 Needling liniment
- 27 "No seats"
- 28 Elevator name
- 31 Eastern "way"
- 32 Mentalist Geller
- 33 Historic period
- 34 Legend
- 36 Calendar abbr.
- 37 Bottom-of-the-barrel bit
- 38 "The Merry —"
- 40 Scale member
- 41 "Swell!"
- 43 French brandy
- 47 Do something
- 48 1970s scandal
- 51 Season opener?
- 52 Actor Jannings
- 53 Carolina college
- 54 California's

DOWN

- 1 Lounge
- 5 Engrossed
- 9 Tiers
- 12 Genesis name
- 13 New York's — Field
- 14 Vigor
- 15 Buddies
- 16 Yale grad
- 17 Cowboys' org.
- 18 Authority
- 19 Brine
- 20 Actress Falco
- 21 It gets in the whey
- 22 "King Kong"
- 23 Discoverer's call
- 24 Cupid's missile
- 25 Beef cut
- 26 \$ dispenser
- 27 Low isle
- 28 Trouble
- 29 Wrestling style
- 30 Anger
- 31 Droop
- 32 Smack
- 33 Sharp weapon
- 34 Wooden peg
- 40 In favor of
- 41 Siestas
- 42 Beige
- 43 Prison room
- 44 "The Lion King" lioness
- 45 Perched on
- 46 Penny
- 49 I love (Lat.)
- 50 Up to

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	O	R	E	S	T	S	A	F	R	O
I	P	A	D	C	A	P	C	L	E	O
F	E	N	G	S	H	U	I	R	U	S
I	N	T	A	K	E	C	R	E	S	T
			R	I	M		Y	E	A	H
A	R	F	M	E	G	A	G	O	N	Y
C	U	R	L	R	E	F	E	T	R	E
S	T	E	E	D	T	E	A	S	A	P
		E	G	A	D	L	I	Z		
R	E	S	I	D	E	I	D	I	O	M
A	L	P	O	F	I	N	A	L	S	A
G	A	I	N	O	R	E	C	H	I	N
A	N	N	S	G	A	S	H	A	L	E

7-12

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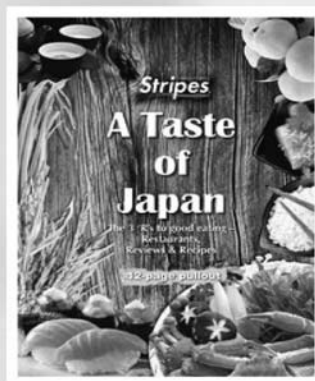
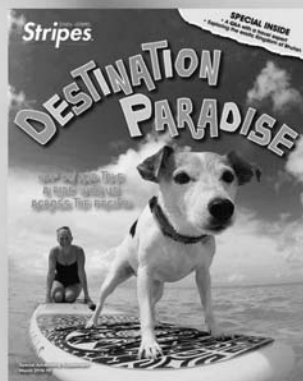
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Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
	Pts	GF	GA		Pts	GF	GA		
Atlanta United FC	12	4	4	40	42	13	5	35	21
New York City FC	10	5	2	39	40	12	5	29	26
Real Salt Lake	10	5	2	39	40	12	5	29	26
Columbus	8	6	6	30	24	23	6	28	20
New England	8	6	6	30	24	23	6	28	20
Montreal	8	11	0	24	32	10	5	29	26
Chicago	8	9	10	21	27	10	5	29	26
Philadelphia	6	9	10	21	27	10	5	29	26
Orlando City	6	9	10	21	27	10	5	29	26
Toronto FC	6	9	10	21	27	10	5	29	26
D.C. United	6	9	10	21	27	10	5	29	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
FC Dallas	10	4	4	34	41	28			
Los Angeles FC	10	4	4	34	41	28			
Portland Timbers	9	8	6	29	27	24			
Real Salt Lake	9	8	6	29	27	24			
Houston	8	5	4	28	26	22			
Portland Timbers	7	6	4	25	26	22			
Seattle Sounders	7	6	4	25	26	22			
Minnesota United	6	11	1	19	23	33			
Seattle Sounders	4	9	4	16	22	32			
San Jose	3	9	3	12	22	37			
San Jose	2	10	6	12	27	37			

Notes: Three points for victory, one for tie.

Sunday, July 8
Los Angeles FC 2, Houston 2
Minnesota United 0, Toronto FC 3
FC Dallas 3, Atlanta United FC 2
Seattle 1, Colorado 1
Real Salt Lake 4, Sporting Kansas City 2
D.C. United 2, LA Galaxy 2

Saturday, July 7
Atlanta United FC 2, Philadelphia 0
Seattle 1, Colorado 1
Seattle 0, New England 0, tie
Toronto 3, Sporting Kansas City 2, tie
Houston 3, Minnesota United 0
Real Salt Lake 4, FC Dallas 2
LA Galaxy 4, Columbus 0
Vancouver 3, Chicago 0
Portland 2, Orlando City 1
Portland 2, San Jose 1

Sunday, July 8
New York City FC, New York 0
Seattle Sounders 1, Portland 0
Portland at New York City FC
Philadelphia at Chicago

Saturday's games
Columbus at New York City FC
Sporting Kansas City at New York LA Galaxy at New England
Atlanta at Colorado
Chicago at FC Dallas
Real Salt Lake at Minnesota United
Toronto FC at Orlando City
Vancouver at D.C. United
Seattle at Atlanta United FC

Sunday's games
Seattle at Atlanta United FC
Portland at Los Angeles FC

NWSL									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
North Carolina	12	1	3	39	65	34			
Portland Thorns	12	1	3	39	65	34			
Chicago	7	5	4	25	23	21			
Orlando	6	5	5	23	24	20			
Utah	6	5	4	23	15	13			
Houston	5	6	4	21	15	13			
Washington	2	10	4	10	11	22			
San Jose	2	10	4	10	11	22			

Notes: Three points for victory, one for tie.

Wednesday's games
Washington at North Carolina
Portland Thorns at Houston
Utah at Seattle

Sunday's games
North Carolina at Sky Blue FC
Portland at Utah
Seattle at Houston

Boxing

Fight schedule

July 13
At Kobe, Japan: Ryuya Yamanaka vs. Yusaku Saito, 12, for Ryuma's WBO strawweight title; Ryoichi Kishida vs. Orille Velazquez, 12, for vacant Asia Pacific junior flyweight title.

July 14
At Los Angeles, Joe Gonzalez vs. Reuben Rivera, 10, for the vacant NABO featherweight title.

July 14
At Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Lucas Mathysse's WBA World flyweight title; Mairim Mitrushina vs. Wazem, 12, for the vacant IBF lightweight title; Mairim Mitrushina vs. Canizales' WBA junior flyweight title; Japhet Tabora vs. Edvaldo Ortega, 12, for vacant WBO flyweight title; Muhammad Abdalrhman Papiwazovi, 10, light heavyweight.

At Offenbach, Germany: Tony Zeuvs vs. Rocky Fielding, 12, for Zeuvs' WBA

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Recalled LHP Donnie Hart from Norfolk (IL). Selected the contract of RHP Dan Marini from Norfolk. Optioned RHP Ryan Meisinger and Yefry Ramirez to Norfolk.
BOSTON RED SOX — Recalled LHP Lian Beeks from Pawtucket (IL). Optioned RHP Lian Beeks to Pawtucket.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed OF Adair Garcia on the 10-day DL, retroactive to July 3. Activated OF Ryan A. Marre.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Recalled RHP Adam Plutko from Columbus (IL). Placed RHP Masahiro Tanaka from the 10-day DL.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Recalled OF Jake Marisnick from Fresno (PCL). Placed RHP Gerrit Cole on the bereavement list.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Reinstated RHP Masahiro Tanaka from the 10-day DL. Announced RHP David Hale refused his outright assignment and elected free agency.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Recalled RHP Ryan Dull from Nashville (PCL). Optioned RHP Frankie Montez to Nashville.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Reinstated C Tom Murphy from the paterfamilias list. Optioned OF Jordan Patterson to Albuquerque (PCL).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Activated RHP Kota Matsuoka from the paterfamilias list. Optioned LHP Edwin Encarnacion to Los Angeles.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Designated RHP Chris Breen for assignment. Optioned RHPs Jacob Hamels and Paul Sewald to Triple-A.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Selected the contract of RHP Drew Gagnon from Las Vegas. Placed OF Trevor Pelfrey on the 10-day DL. Transferred OF Fredi Gonzalez to the 60-day DL. Optioned OF Dylan Cozens and OF Trevor Pelfrey to Triple-A.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Reinstated RHP Joe Mauer from the 10-day DL. Optioned RHP Alec McLane to Indianapolis.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Recalled RHP Daniel Suarez and Austin Voth from Syracuse (IL). Placed LHP Sean Doolittle on the 10-day DL, retroactive to July 7. Optioned RHP Jeffrey Rodriguez to Syracuse.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Reinstated executive director of basketball operations to a four-year term.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Announced the resignation of athletic trainer Chelsea Lane. Re-signed C Kevin Durant to a one-year contract.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Signed GS LA's Stephen Curry to a four-year contract.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Signed F CJR.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
CALGARY FLAMES — Signed GM Darren Wozniak director of player personnel.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Signed F Nikita Kucherov to an eight-year contract extension through the 2026-27 season.

Major League Soccer
MINNESOTA UNITED — Signed F Angelo Rodriguez to a designated player contract.

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Named CJR. Brown assigned coach.

WINTERPORTS
USA CURLING — Named Pete Fenson women's national team coach.

COLLEGE
CHESHUNT HULL — Named Tim Moyer women's basketball coach.

CELESTION — Named Courtney Breaux women's basketball coach.

NEW HAMPSHIRE — Named Jeff Giuliano assistant coach.

RUTGERS — Named Dr. Kristina Vargan senior associate athletic director for sports medicine development and research partnerships.

July 20
At Winnipeg, Canada, Sloan, Iowa, Jaron Ennis vs. Armando Alvarez, 10, welterweights.

July 21
At Moscow, Oleksandr Usyk vs. Murat Gabsaliev, 12, for vacant IBF junior welterweight title; Teofimo Lopez vs. William Silvestre, 12, for vacant WBO junior welterweight title (World Boxing Super Series final).

July 21
At Moscow, Oleksandr Usyk vs. Murat Gabsaliev, 12, for vacant IBF junior welterweight title; Teofimo Lopez vs. William Silvestre, 12, for vacant WBO junior welterweight title (World Boxing Super Series final).

At Las Vegas, Jaime Munzuga vs. Liam Smith, 12, for Munzuga's WBO junior middleweight title; Mairim Mitrushina vs. Canizales' WBA junior flyweight title.

Cycling

Tour de France

Tuesday

At Sarzeau, France

A 121.1-mile team flat ride from La Baule to Sarzeau

1. Javier Garcia, Colombia, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

2. Alexander Kristoff, Slovakia, Bora-Hansgrohe, same time.

3. Dylan Groenewegen, Netherlands, LottoN-Jumbo, same time.

4. Marcel Kittel, Germany, Katusha-Alpecin, same time.

5. Dion Smith, New Zealand, Wanty-Groupe Gobert, same time.

6. Andrea Pasqualun, Italy, Wanty-Groupe Gobert, same time.

7. Thorald Boudart, Germany, UAE Team Emirates, same time.

8. Warren Barguil, France, Fortuneo-Samsic, same time.

9. Lilian Calmejane, France, Direct Energie, same time.

10. Thomas Boudart, France, Direct Energie, same time.

11. Arnaud Demare, France, Groupama-FDJ, same time.

12. Lilian Calmejane, France, Direct Energie, same time.

13. Warren Barguil, France, Fortuneo-Samsic, same time.

14. Philippe Gilbert, Belgium, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

15. Laurent Pichon, France, Fortuneo-Samsic, same time.

16. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Team Sky, same time.

17. Chad Haga, United States, Sunweb, same time.

18. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, same time.

19. Tom Dumoulin, United States, Katusha-Alpecin, 3:22.

20. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Team Sky, same time.

21. Greg Van Avermaet, Belgium, BMC Racing, same time.

22. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, same time.

23. Philippe Gilbert, Belgium, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

24. Julian Alaphilippe, France, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

25. Bob Jungels, Luxembourg, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

26. Tom Dumoulin, Netherlands, Sunweb, 11.

27. Simon Kragh Andersen, Denmark, Sunweb, same time.

28. Rigoberto Uran, Colombia, EF Education First-Drapac, 3:48.

29. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, same time.

30. Philippe Gilbert, Belgium, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

31. Julian Alaphilippe, France, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

32. Bob Jungels, Luxembourg, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

33. Tom Dumoulin, Netherlands, Sunweb, 11.

34. Simon Kragh Andersen, Denmark, Sunweb, same time.

35. Rigoberto Uran, Colombia, EF Education First-Drapac, 3:48.

Auto racing

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup

schedule and winners

Feb. 11 — x-Advance Auto Parts Clash (Kevin Harvick)

Feb. 15 — x-Cam-Am Duel 1 (Ryan Blaney)

Feb. 15 — x-Cam-Am Duel 2 (Chase Elliott)

Feb. 18 — Daytona 500 (Austin Dillon)

Feb. 25 — Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 (Kevin Harvick)

March 4 — Penzoi 400 (Kevin Harvick)

March 11 — TicketGuard 500 (Kevin Harvick)

March 18 — Auto Club 400 (Martin Truex Jr.)

April 8 — STP 500 (Clint Bowyer)

April 8 — O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 (Kyle Busch)

April 15 — Food City 500 (Kyle Busch)

April 22 — Toyota Owners 400 (Kyle Busch)

April 29 — GEICO 500 (Joey Logano)

May 6 — AAA 400 Drive for Autism (Kevin Harvick)

May 12 — Masterpiece 400 (Kevin Harvick)

May 19 — x-NASCAR All-Star Open (AJ Allmendinger)

May 27 — Coca-Cola 600 (Kyle Busch)

June 3 — Pocono 400 (Martin Truex Jr.)

June 10 — FireKeepers Casino 400 (Clint Bowyer)

June 14 — Toyota/Save Mart 350 (Martin Truex Jr.)

June 21 — Overtone's 400 (Kyle Larson)

June 28 — Coke Zero Sugar 400 (Kyle Jones)

July 4 — Quaker State 400, Sparks, Ky.

July 22 — Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 (Justin Allgaier)

July 29 — Gander Outdoors 400, Long Pond, Pa.

Aug. 5 — Go Bowling at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Aug. 12 — Consumers Energy 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

Aug. 19 — Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.

Sept. 2 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.

Sept. 9 — Big Machine Vodka 400, Indianapolis

Sept. 16 — South Point 400, Las Vegas

Sept. 22 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Richmond, Va.

Sept. 30 — Bank of America 500, Charlotte, N.C.

Oct. 14 — TBA, Dover, Del.

Oct. 14 — 1000Bubs.com, 500, Talladega

Oct. 21 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Mo.

Oct. 28 — First Data 500, Martinsville, Va.

Nov. 4 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth

Nov. 11 — x-Cam-Am 500, Avondale, Ariz.

Nov. 18 — EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla.

Nov. 25 — x-points race

IndyCar schedule and winners

March 11 — Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (Scott Dixon)

April 7 — Phoenix Grand Prix (Josef Newgarden)

April 14 — Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach (Alexandra Rossi)

April 21 — Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama (Josef Newgarden)

May 12 — Grand Prix of Indianapolis (Will Power)

May 27 — Indianapolis 500 (Will Power)

June 3 — Chevrolet Indy Duel (Race 1) (Scott Dixon)

June 3 — Chevrolet Indy Duel (Race 2) (Ryan Hunter-Reay)

June 10 — IndyCar Technology 600 (Scott Dixon)

June 24 — Kohler Grand Prix (Josef Newgarden)

July 1 — Iowa Corn 300 (James Hinchcliffe)

July 25 — Honda Indy Toronto (Scott Dixon)

Aug. 12 — IndyCar Supply 500, Long Pond, Pa.

Aug. 25 — Bommarito Automotive 600, Madison, Ill.

Sept. 2 — Grand Prix of Portland, Portland, Ore.

Sept. 16 — Grand Prix of Sonoma, Calif.

Sept. 23 — Grand Prix of Long Beach (Josef Newgarden)

Sept. 30 — Grand Prix of Long Beach (Josef Newgarden)

Oct. 7 — Grand Prix of Long Beach (Josef Newgarden)

Oct. 14 — Grand Prix of Long Beach (Josef Newgarden)

Oct. 21 — Grand Prix of Long Beach (Josef Newgarden)

Oct. 28 — Grand Prix of Long Beach (Josef Newgarden)

Nov. 4 — Grand Prix of Long Beach (Josef Newgarden)

WORLD CUP

Belgium's golden generation falls short

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Belgium's golden generation has come up short at a major tournament. Again.

With Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard in fantastic form creating chances for themselves and Romelu Lukaku up front, Vincent Kompany fit again at the heart of the defense and Thibaut Courtois standing tall in goal, these Red Devils racked up more goals than any other team in the World Cup. Through five matches, it looked as if they could finally deliver on their promise.

But with their King Philippe watching from the stands, there was to be no coronation.

After reaching the World Cup semifinals for the first time since 1986, Roberto Martinez's talent-packed team lost 1-0 to France on Tuesday at St. Petersburg Stadium on a Samuel Umtiti second-half header from a corner kick.

"Damn set piece, that's all I can say," Kompany said.

A Belgium team featuring many of the same stars lost 1-0 to Argentina in the World Cup quarterfinals four years ago and then was shocked 3-1 by Wales in the European Championship quarterfinals two years ago.

Even through the first 30 minutes in St. Petersburg, this side had looked different, carving out chances and containing France's counterattacks.

"We had more chances today, we had more control of the match," Kompany said. "We weren't in control (four) years ago against Argentina."

But the potent Belgian attack gradually faded as France's rock-solid defense handed Belgium its first shutout of the tournament.

Instead of playing Sunday in Moscow for its first World Cup, Belgium will be back in St. Petersburg on Saturday, playing in the third-place match and wondering if its championship window has closed.

Belgium's beaten players did not want



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

Belgium's Vincent Kompany, left, and France's Paul Pogba vie for the ball during their semifinal match Tuesday at the World Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. At 32 and injury prone, Kompany may well have played his last World Cup match for Belgium.

to talk about the end of an era — not with stars like 27-year-old De Bruyne, 26-year-old Courtois and 25-year-old Lukaku on the team and more coming through the youth ranks.

"Generations. Who talks about genera-

tions?" De Bruyne said. "We are a small country. We can be very happy and lucky that we can have the team what we have. We don't have the resources, the infrastructure, the money that other countries have. What we have is a really good team

that performed really well."

The last time a Belgium team got this far at the World Cup, it lost 2-0 to Argentina at the 1986 tournament in Mexico. A pair of Diego Maradona second-half goals sank Belgium that day.

France's defense stifles Red Devils' potent offense

By JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — France's defense made the difference — on both sides of the field.

Goalkeeper Hugo Lloris kept out the shots and defender Samuel Umtiti scored the winning goal from a corner.

It was France's backbone, not its slick attackers, that carried the team to the World Cup final with a 1-0 victory over Belgium on Tuesday.

"This is why football is magical, it gives everyone emotions. It's tough not to give into euphoria, but it's a fantastic moment," Lloris said. "We feared them on set pieces, but in the end it was us scoring from one."

France coach Didier Deschamps fell into Umtiti's arms after the final whistle. His superbly drilled defense, led by Raphael Varane, neutralized Belgium's much-hyped attack to record a fourth shutout in six games so far.

"They have so many athletic players, to have resisted in defense is very good. We had to defend very deep sometimes," Deschamps said. "We came up against a very good Belgium side which controlled the game more than us. But we also hurt them."



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

France's Raphael Varane, left, and Belgium's Romelu Lukaku go up to head the ball during their semifinal match Tuesday at the World Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. Varane was crucial to helping France's defenders keep Lukaku off the score sheet.

Umtiti danced in front of the France fans, while center back partner Varane walked over to them and pumped his clenched fist. Varane was injured when France lost the

European Championship final two years ago, and he looks determined to make up for it.

The spotlight has been on 19-year-old

sensation Kylian Mbappe in Russia, whose electric pace and skill lit up the tournament. But for the second consecutive knockout game, a defender managed to score when Mbappe couldn't.

Against Uruguay last Friday, it was Varane's header that gave France the lead in a 2-0 win. A few days later, it was Umtiti rising to head home a corner from the right in the 51st minute.

"Enormously proud," Umtiti said. "We worked really hard together, and it's me that scored but we all delivered a big game."

Umtiti showed superb timing to leap above Belgium midfielder Maroune Fellaini — the tallest non-goalskeeper on either side — and power a header past Thibaut Courtois.

"When you're not particularly tall you need determination and the will to get in front of the opponent," Umtiti said. "The set piece was really well taken as well, and that helped me beat someone as good as Fellaini in the air."

Forward Antoine Griezmann set up Umtiti's and Varane's headed goals up with his cushioned delivery from set pieces. But like Mbappe, he took a back seat against the Belgians as Lloris and his defense starred at St. Petersburg Stadium.

WORLD CUP



DAVID VINCENT, ABOVE, AND THANASSIS STAVRAKIS, BELOW/AP

Above: France's Olivier Giroud, right, challenges for the ball with Belgium's Moussa Dembele during their semifinal match Tuesday at the World Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. Below: France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris stops a shot from Belgium's Toby Alderweireld.



Final: France's 'luxury squad' in final for first time since 2006

FROM BACK PAGE

final. Belgium reached the quarterfinals at the 2014 World Cup and the European Championship in 2016 but has yet to fulfil its lofty expectations.

The world now gets to see France's luxury squad, collectively valued in excess of \$1 billion and headlined by teenage sensation Kylian Mbappe, in another major final.

Two years ago at home, the French surprisingly lost to Portugal 1-0 in the Euro 2016 title match. In 2006, they were beaten in a penalty shootout by Italy in a World Cup final that was overshadowed by Zidane headbutting opposing player Marco Materazzi in the chest in extra time. Zidane was sent off.

In a tournament dominated by goals from set pieces, France took the lead from a corner. Griezmann curled in the ball from the right and Umтитi got in front of tall Belgium midfielder Marouane Fellaini to knock in his header at the near post.

"It's me that scored," Umтитi said, "but we all delivered a big game."

Up in the corporate seats, French President Emmanuel Macron reacted to the goal by shaking the hand of King Philippe of Belgium as FIFA president Gianni Infantino watched on between them.

The goal capped an impressive display by Umтитi, who helped to shut out the most productive attack in the World Cup with 14 goals, and meant three defenders have now scored on France's route to the final. Benjamin Pavard and Raphael Varane scored in previous matches.

In search of the equalizer, Belgium repeatedly sent over crosses from both wings but Umтитi and Varane, both center backs, used their bodies cleverly to hold off Fellaini and Lukaku. Varane, in particular, was outstanding.

France coach Didier Deschamps has faced some criticism for being too pragmatic and functional despite having so many stars in his squad, but the organization of the team was superb and Belgium was largely restricted to only minor chances that were kept out by the flying Lloris.

Deschamps now has the chance to become the third person to win the World Cup as a player and a coach, after Germany great Franz Beckenbauer and Brazil's Mario Zagallo. As France captain, Deschamps won soccer's most prized trophy in 1998.

With Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar no longer in Russia, Eden Hazard and Mbappe have taken over as the stars of the World Cup and there was a buzz every time either got the ball.

Yet while Hazard — Belgium's captain — faded after a strong opening 30 minutes, Mbappe was a constant threat. His first touch was after 10 seconds and, after receiving the ball on the right wing, he sped past Jan Vertonghen and then Mousa Dembele in a thrilling run.

At 19, Mbappe wasn't even born when France won the World Cup for the first and only time with a squad that is just as diverse as the one Deschamps is leading 20 years later.

Lloris is the captain and he played a key role against Bel-

By the numbers

14

Number of goals Belgium had scored in this year's World Cup prior to being shut out by France.

4

Number of shutouts France has recorded in six World Cup games.

1

Number of World Cups France has won. Les Bleus will try to win their second on Sunday.

SOURCE: Associated Press

gium, diving to his right midway through the first half to claw away Toby Alderweireld's shot and then getting in front of Lukaku to punch away one of substitute Dries Mertens' many crosses.

In the stands

Along with the French and Gabonese presidents and the king and queen of Belgium, there was rock 'n' roll royalty watching the game.

Mick Jagger was one of the many famous faces in the stands at St. Petersburg Stadium. The Rolling Stones frontman is a big soccer fan, having attended the World Cup final in Brazil in 2014 as well as many England games.

Former Baywatch actress Pamela Anderson, who is the partner of France defender Adil Rami, also was present.



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MLB

Indians blow Bauer's gem on bullpen flub

By BRIAN DULIK
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Indians manager Terry Francona expected to see Oliver Perez run out of the bullpen. Pitching coach Carl Willis made the call for Dan Otero instead.

The mixup was a miserable one for the AL Central leaders.

Joey Votto hit a go-ahead, three-run double off Otero in the ninth inning as Cincinnati scored seven times with two outs, overcoming a gem by Trevor Bauer to beat Cleveland 7-4 on Tuesday night.

Francona instructed Willis to have "O-P" warm up, referring to Oliver Perez, with the bases loaded and a 4-3 lead with closer Cody Allen struggling. Willis misunderstood the message, believing he had used Otero's nickname of "O-T."

"When I saw O-T coming through the gate, it was not that I don't think he can pitch, but it just wasn't the guy I was expecting," Francona said. "We had a communication [error]. That one lands squarely on me, no getting around it. I know Carl is beating himself up right now, but that one lands on me."

Willis, who rejoined the staff this season, accepted responsibility for the mistake. He noted that Votto was 0-for-4 in his career against Otero, but said he should have asked Francona for clarification.

Allen (2-4) initiated the sequence by loading the bases after recording two outs in relief of Bauer, who struck out 12 in eight shutout innings. Cleveland's bullpen entered the day with the third-highest ERA in baseball at 5.13.

"Quite frankly, heart of hearts, I felt like Cody was going to get out of the situation," Willis said. "But you know, I made the mistake, got the wrong guy up. It's not that O-T can't get the job done, but it probably wasn't the best matchup."

Adam Duvall also doubled in the pair in the ninth, while Jose Perez and Eugenio Suarez had RBI singles off Allen. Cincinnati's final seven batters reached base before Scooter Gennett ran into the third out on Suarez's hit.

"I take sole responsibility for everything that took place there," said Allen, who was charged with a career-high six runs. "We're confident in every guy that runs out of that gate and we shouldn't have been in that position in the first place."

Making his first start since being named to his first All-Star Game, Bauer only allowed three singles and didn't surrender a hit until Jesse Winker's one-out liner up the middle in the fifth.

The right-hander became the second major leaguer to post seven consecutive quality starts with eight-or-more strike-

outs and no homers allowed, according to the Indians. Pedro Martinez holds the record with eight in 2002.

"Bauer was a handful for us and we ended up scoring all of our runs when he exited the game," Votto said. "There is a reason why he's an All-Star and there is a reason why he is fastly becoming one of the better pitchers, if not one of the best pitchers in the game."

Former Cleveland reliever Kyle Crockett (1-0) netted the final two outs in the eighth after righty Sal Romano went the first 7 1/3 innings. Raisel Iglesias worked the ninth for his second save in two nights and his 19th of the season.

Francisco Lindor hit his fifth leadoff homer of the year and fellow All-Star Jose Ramirez had a solo shot for the Indians. Ramirez' home run was his 25th, marking the eighth time in franchise history the milestone has been reached in the first half of the season.

Very memorable. Reds interim manager Jim Riggleman earned his 700th career win, but wasn't unaware of it until after the game. Cincinnati is 38-36 since he took over for Bryan Price on April 19.

"This is really an energetic, high-energy group, a fun-to-manage group," he said. "It was on display at its best there. That's probably the best inning I've ever involved



TONY DEJAK/AP

Indians starting pitcher Trevor Bauer left after giving up three singles and striking out 12 in eight scoreless innings on Tuesday against the Reds. He watched as Cleveland's bullpen gave up seven runs in the ninth inning to lose 7-4.

in for a long time."

The four-run comeback in the ninth was the Reds' first since June 30, 2006 against the Indians.

Roundup

Bregman lifts Astros with bizarre walk-off in 11th

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Alex Bregman agreed when someone called the final play on Tuesday night in Houston a circus. Oakland catcher Jonathan Lucroy described it as "a big zoo."

Both descriptions could work for the wild way this one ended.

Bregman homered twice and his tapper just in front of the clubhouse in the 11th inning led to a bizarre sequence that ended the game, as Lucroy's throwing error handed the Astros a 6-5 victory over the Athletics.

"It was a crazy play," said Oakland manager Bob Melvin, who had to watch it from the clubhouse after being ejected for arguing a check swing in the fourth. "Crazy way the game ended."

Justin Verlander pitched six sharp innings and the Astros took a 4-0 lead into the ninth before the Athletics tied it.

Stephen Piscotty hit a solo homer with two outs in the top of the 11th off Collin McHugh (5-0) to put the A's ahead, but the Astros staged their own rally.

All-Star closer Blake Treinen (5-2) walked pinch-hitter Josh Reddick, who went to third on a single to right field by rookie Kyle Tucker. With the infield playing in, Tony Kemp hit a grounder to shortstop Marcus Semien. He made a low throw home that Lucroy was unable to handle, allowing Reddick to slide in safely with the tying run.

With one out, Bregman's dribbler started out foul before spinning into fair territory just a few feet up the first base line. Breg-



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

The Astros' Alex Bregman, right, hits a ground ball in front of Athletics catcher Jonathan Lucroy during the 11th inning Tuesday in Houston. The Astros scored the winning run on the play.

man failed to run initially, so Lucroy scooped up the ball and reached for Bregman as he backpedaled — the bat still in his hand — in an effort to dodge the tag.

But the ball slipped out of Lucroy's bare hand, pinballed off plate umpire David Rackley and Lucroy, and then fell to the ground.

"That's when we were playing dodgeball there for a couple of seconds," Lucroy said. "That was just a big mess, a big zoo behind the plate there. Hopefully I never have to see that again. That's the first time that's ever happened in my eight years. Hopefully it's the last time."

Still with plenty of time, though, Lucroy picked up the ball, set his feet with an angle to throw to first

base — and fired the ball off the back of Bregman's helmet as he ran up the line.

The ball ricocheted into foul territory in right field, and Tucker trotted home with the winning run.

Following a replay review, the play stood as called on the field.

Bregman was glad things worked out in Houston's favor, but mad that he swung at what he called a "horrible pitch."

He called his swing "the biggest circus of the whole thing," and added: "I think it was the softest ball anyone's ever hit."

Houston reliever Ken Giles allowed three consecutive singles with nobody out in the ninth as the A's pulled to 4-1. The television broadcast appeared to show

Giles cursing at manager AJ Hinch as he was lifted. Hinch was asked about the outburst by Giles, who earlier this season punched himself in the face as he left the mound following another bad outing.

"That stuff happens in the heat of battle," Hinch said. "I'll have to look at it. He can let me know if it was directed at me; I didn't hear anything. And you can certainly understand that I'll address it if it turns out it was at me."

Red Sox 8, Rangers 4: Andrew Benintendi bolstered his All-Star credentials with a pair of doubles and two RBIs in his final game before fan votes are tallied, and host Boston extended its winning streak to eight games.

Rays 5, Tigers 2: Wilson Ramos hit his three-run homer, five Tampa Bay pitchers combined on a five-hitter and the host Rays beat Detroit.

The Rays moved three games above .500 for the first time since Aug. 6 last year after posting their 13th win in the last 14 home games.

Brewers 8, Marlins 4: Christian Yelich had three hits and four RBIs, Travis Shaw homered and Milwaukee beat Miami.

Phillies 7, Mets 3: Enyel De Los Santos won his major league debut and Philadelphia got home runs from Maikel Franco and Odbel Herrera in a victory over host New York.

Orioles 6, Yankees 5: Manny Machado hit two home runs, Jonathan Schoop singled in the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning, and host Baltimore rallied past New York.

Blue Jays 6, Braves 2: Russell Martin's sharp single in Toronto's five-run eighth drove in the go-ahead run, Marcus Stroman allowed pitched seven strong innings, and visiting Toronto beat Atlanta to knock the Braves out of first place.

Nationals 5, Pirates 1: Anthony Rendon hit a two-run homer, Daniel Murphy doubled twice and had four hits, and Washington beat host Pittsburgh.

Cardinals 14, White Sox 2: Dexter Fowler broke out of a slump with his fourth career grand slam. Miles Mikolas tossed six innings of three-hit ball and St. Louis routed host Chicago.

Royals 9, Twins 4: Adalberto Mondesi had a three-run homer and a career-high four RBIs to help visiting Kansas City snap a 10-game skid.

Padres 4, Dodgers 1: Rookie left-hander Eric Lauer came within one out of his first career complete game before allowing Max Muncy's home run, and Wil Myers homered for the sixth time in four games to lead host San Diego.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3: David Peralta and A.J. Pollock homered in Arizona's four-run seventh inning, and the Diamondbacks won for the fourth straight time at Coors Field.

Cubs 2, Giants 0: Victor Caratini hit an RBI double during a decisive seventh inning, helping visiting Chicago back Jose Quintana in a close game.

Angels 9, Mariners 3: Kole Calhoun and Andruel Simmons each had three hits and two RBIs to lead host Los Angeles.

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS

Silver says age for draft eligibility likely to change

Competitive balance will be a sticky subject

By TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver is certain that changes are coming to the league.

Some are easy. Others, not so much. Speaking after the NBA's Board of Governors meeting on Tuesday night, Silver said he thinks the league is ready to scrap the rule requiring players to be out of high school for a year before becoming eligible to enter the draft. That one should be relatively simple to move forward now, while notions such as how to find more competitive balance are still a puzzle to the league and its commissioner.

"I'm not here to say we have a problem," Silver said. "And I love where the league is right now. But I think we can create a better system."

Part of that better system, he thinks, will be reverting back to the policy that will allow players to go into the league right out of high school — something that should be in place in time for the 2021 NBA Draft, though that timeline has not been formally announced. Silver was a proponent of making the eligibility age older, up to 20 instead of the current 19, though has changed his stance that in recent weeks.

"My personal view is that we're ready to make that change," Silver said. "It won't come immediately. But when I've weighed the pros and cons, given that Condo-lezza Rice and her commission have recommended to the NBA that those one-and-done players now come directly into the league and in essence the college community is saying 'We do not want those players anymore,' I think that tips the scale in my mind."

Michele Roberts, the National Basketball Players Association's newly re-elected executive director — the players' union announced a new four-year deal for her earlier Tuesday — has had talks with Silver on the topic, though she stopped short of revealing specifics. Any change to the rule will require that the league's Collective Bargaining Agreement will have to be amended.

"Stay tuned," Roberts said, adding, "I suspect that we'll have some news in the next few months."

Now that Silver is on board, that switch should be painless. So, too, will be a relatively minor tweak to agency rules, that being a likely change to what has been the traditional 12:01 a.m. EDT

start time on July 1. Silver said he's no fan of the all-night news cycle that has accompanied the official start of free agency, and without divulging what will happen he made clear that it'll be different for 2019.

But creating parity, that one isn't going to be simple.

Golden State has won three of the last four NBA championships, and this summer saw the Warriors land DeMarcus Cousins for a \$5.3 million — a mere pittance by NBA standards for an All-Star, even one recovering from an Achilles' tear. LeBron James left Cleveland for the Los Angeles Lakers, which will likely make the loaded Western Conference even more competitive.

Making the playoffs out West will probably be much tougher than getting there out of the East.

"It's on me and our labor relations committee ultimately to sit with the players and their committee and convince them that there may be a better way of doing things," Silver said. "By that, meaning change ultimately in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. ... I don't necessarily think it's, per se, bad that the Warriors are so dominant. We're not trying to create some sort of forced parity. What we're really focused on is parity of opportunity."

Roberts said she sees no shortage of good teams in the league.

"Competitive balance, it kind of almost depends upon what your favorite team is," Roberts said. "I don't hear anyone in the Bay Area worrying about competitive balance. I also don't hear people in Philadelphia worrying about competitive balance, or Houston. We've got great teams. It's never been the case that I was not able, most of the time, be able to predict who was going to be in the Finals."

Among other matters Silver addressed Tuesday:

■ The governors were briefed on the ongoing talks the league is having with the gaming industry, with sports betting now able to be offered by each state following a ruling in May by the U.S. Supreme Court.

■ Silver called it "embarrassing" that the league currently has only one female referee, and said he's hopeful that will be changed before long. There are 19 female referees at summer league in Las Vegas this month.

■ The investigation into allegations of workplace misconduct against the Dallas Mavericks should be completed by the end of July, Silver said.



APRILIAN KRAUS/AP

Buffalo Bills running back LeSean McCoy says an allegation posted on social media accusing him of bloodying his former girlfriend's face is baseless and false. Police acknowledged that a woman was assaulted at the house owned by McCoy.

Briefly

Lawyer for woman: McCoy orchestrated home assault

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The lawyer for the ex-girlfriend of NFL star LeSean McCoy says the Buffalo Bills running back orchestrated an attack that left her bloody amid attempts to get her to leave his suburban Atlanta mansion.

Attorney Tanya Mitchell Graham says in a statement to news outlets that her client was physically assaulted Tuesday morning by a man who entered the home with no signs of forced entry. The man demanded specific items of jewelry that had been gifted to her from McCoy, who had requested them back on many occasions.

The Associated Press is not identifying the woman, pending further details of the attack.

Police acknowledged that a woman was assaulted at the house owned by McCoy. One female was treated and released from the hospital, while another sustained a minor injury during a targeted invasion early Tuesday, Milton police said in a release responding to requests by The Associated Press.

McCoy and the woman have been in court over his attempts to evict her from the home.

Fulton County Magistrate Court records show that McCoy initiated eviction proceedings against the former girlfriend in July 2017, saying that the pair were no longer in a relationship.

An image of the ex-girlfriend's bloodied and beaten face was shown in a social media post blaming McCoy for the assault. The football player denied the allegations Tuesday.

McCoy denied allegations posted on social media.

"For the record, the totally baseless and offensive claims made against me today on social media are completely false," McCoy said in a statement released on two of his social media accounts. "Further more, I have not had any direct contact with any of the people involved in months."

Police said it's not clear how many suspects were involved, but one demanded specific items from one of the women in the home.

Police spokesman Charles Barstow said he could not release any further details.

The Bills issued a statement saying they have been in contact with McCoy and the NFL and will continue gathering information. NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league is reviewing the matter.

Sagan wins first hilly Tour stage

QUIMPER, France — For the second time in this year's Tour de France, Peter Sagan has beaten Sonny Colbrelli in a sprint finish.

As opposed to the flatter Stage 2, his Stage 5 victory came at the conclusion of the race's first hilly route Wednesday.

Greg Van Avermaet took advantage of an interne-

date bonus sprint to add two seconds to his overall lead, ahead of BMC teammate Tejay Van Garderen. Race favorite Chris Froome crossed safely in the main pack.

Sagan, the three-time reigning world champion, clocked nearly five hours over the challenging leg through Brittany, which contained five categorized climbs over a 127-mile route from Lorient to Quimper.

Froome trails Van Avermaet by 57 seconds in 15th spot.

Indians' Chisenhall to miss 8-10 weeks

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians will be without two of their most experienced playoff performers for an extended period.

Right fielder Lonnie Chisenhall will miss 8-10 weeks with a strained left calf muscle, and right-hander Josh Tomlin was placed on the disabled list with a strained right hamstring Tuesday.

Chisenhall suffered a grade 3 strain while warming up before a July 2 game in Kansas City. Manager Terry Francona said he expected the 29-year-old to miss "significant time," which was confirmed by a second medical opinion.

Both were members of Cleveland's last three postseason teams, including its 2016 squad that lost the World Series in seven games to the Chicago Cubs.

The Indians lead the AL Central by 8½ games and appear headed to a third straight division title, but the injuries could change their approach with the July 31 trade deadline looming.

"We've been together six years now, most of this group, and there is a lot of trust that happens in that time," Francona said. "We'll sit down and figure out what's best for all of us."

In other MLB news:

■ The Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday unveiled an elaborate plan for a new domed stadium that would take them across Tampa Bay to the Ybor City section of Tampa at a cost of nearly \$900 million.

The 30,842-seat stadium would be the smallest in Major League Baseball and would be covered by a fully enclosed and translucent roof, not a retractable dome.

Stuart Sternberg, principal owner of the Rays since 2005, called the plan "a dramatic break from the past" and explained the blueprint as the franchise's latest attempt to make a long-term commitment to the region.

"That has the best opportunity to happen here in Tampa, at the center of the Tampa Bay region," Sternberg said. "We believe that baseball cannot only survive but thrive here in Tampa, and Tampa Bay, and all the growth that comes ahead of us."

The Rays have consistently ranked near the bottom in attendance at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, about 20 miles from the proposed new site.

WIMBLEDON

No. 1 Federer eliminated in quarterfinals

Defending champ wastes match point against Anderson; Djokovic advances

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

LONDON — Roger Federer was a point away from a rather tidy, straight-set victory in the Wimbledon quarterfinals. One lousy point.

And then, slowly, over the next two-plus hours, all the way until the fifth set reached its 24th game, as the temperature dropped and the spectators' cries of "Let's go, Roger!" echoed through the shadows, everything came apart for the eight-time champion against an opponent who'd never beaten him before nor made it this far at the All England Club.

In a stunning turnaround in an unfamiliar setting — No. 1 Court instead of Centre Court — the top-seeded Federer blew a third-set match point and, eventually, all of his big lead in a 2-6, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4, 13-11 loss to No. 8 Kevin Anderson on Wednesday in a 4-hour, 14-minute tussle.

"It was just one of those days where you hope to get by somehow," Federer said. "I almost could have. I should have."

He was leading by two sets and 5-4 in the third when, with Anderson serving, he got to Ad-Out. Could have ended things right then and there. Federer managed to return a 134 mph serve, but on his next stroke, he shanked a backhand.

Back to deuce. From there, it all began to change. Anderson held for 5-all, broke to 6-5 with a violent return winner off a 97 mph second serve, then staved off three break points and closed the set with a 133 mph ace.

The comeback was just beginning.

"I had my chances," Federer said, "so it's disappointing."

This was only the third time in Federer's 20 years of contesting Grand Slam matches that he lost one after taking the opening two sets; both of the other defeats came in 2011. And, according to the ATP, it's the fifth time Federer lost a match at a major tourna-



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Kei Nishikori during their quarterfinal match Wednesday.

ment after holding a match point, something else that last happened seven years ago.

How hard was it to see this coming?

Federer was 4-0 against Anderson entering the day, winning every set he played against each other. But there was more. So much more. Federer was attempting to reach his 13th semifinal at Wimbledon and move closer to title No. 9, both of which would have broken his own records.

He came into the match having won 32 consecutive sets at Wimbledon, a run he stretched to 34 before faltering. And he had held serve 81 games in a row at the grass-court major, a streak that grew to 85 before Anderson broke him a surprising total of four times.

"I just kept on telling myself, 'I have to keep believing.' I kept saying that today was going to be my day, because you really need that mindset taking the court against somebody like Roger," Anderson said. "If you go out there with doubts or unsure what's going to happen, like I maybe did a little bit in that first set, it's not going to



BEN CURTIS/AP

Top seed Roger Federer wipes his face Wednesday after losing the fourth set of his quarterfinal against South Africa's Kevin Anderson in London. Federer lost the match 2-6, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4, 13-11.

go your way."

Not that Anderson is anything other than an elite tennis player. He was, after all, the runner-up at last year's U.S. Open. That also was the closest he's come to winning a Grand Slam trophy, while Federer owns 20.

Anderson never had made it beyond the fourth round at Wimbledon until this week, carried by his booming serve. He hit 28 aces against Federer, saved 9 of 12 break points and managed to hold his own in the rare lengthy baseline rallies.

"It's like that with the big servers," Federer said. "You're never really safe."

As the fifth set became as much a test of mental strength as anything, from 4-all to 6-all to 8-all to 10-all, Anderson was as steady as he needed to be. And it was Federer who blinked, double-faulting to face a break point at 11-all, then slapping a forehand into the net to cede the key break.

Anderson then served it out, ending things with a 128 mph service winner, and raised both arms overhead.

Now the 32-year-old South African moves on to a semifinal

against No. 9 John Isner of the U.S. or No. 13 Milos Raonic of Canada.

That will be played at Centre Court, of course, a spot Federer knows well. His loss to Anderson was the first match he'd played at No. 1 since 2015.

Three-time Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic got his wish to play in the main stadium, and he reached his first Grand Slam semifinal since 2016 by beating No. 24 seed Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Djokovic is a 12-time major champion who's been in something of a rut, due to right elbow troubles that lasted more than a year until he finally had surgery in February.

He's been flashing some anger this fortnight and did so again in the second set, bouncing his racket off the turf after failing to capitalize on three break points at 1-all. That earned a code violation from chair umpire Carlos Ramos. When Nishikori let his own racket fly in the fourth set, he wasn't chastised, which prompted Djokovic to yell "double standards" toward Ramos — drawing boos from fans.

Scoreboard

Wednesday

**At All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
London**

Purse: \$44,763,652 (Grand Slam)

Surface: Grass

(Seedings in parentheses)

Men's Singles

Quarterfinal

Kevin Anderson (8), South Africa, def. Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, 2-6, 6-7

(5), 7-5, 6-4, 13-11.

Novak Djokovic (12), Serbia, def. Kei Nishikori (24), Japan, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Women's Doubles

Quarterfinal

Abigail Spears, United States and Alicia Rosolska, Poland, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France and Times Babos (1), Hungary, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Barbora Krejickova, Czech Republic and Katerina Siniakova (3), Czech Republic, def. Taja Maria, Germany and Heather Watson, Britain, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic and Nicole Pietrangeli (12), United States, def. Mihaela Buzarnescu, Romania and Irina Begu (15), Romania, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Xu Yifan, China and Gabriela Dabrowski (6), Canada, def. Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States and Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Mixed Doubles

Third Round

Victoria Azarenka, Belarus and Jamie Murray, Britain, def. Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands and Johanna Larsson (12), Sweden, 7-6 (6), 6-3.

Later, Ramos warned Djokovic for a time violation, but that didn't seem to faze the Serb.

Kerber, Goerges aim for all-German women's final

BY MATTIAS KAREN
Associated Press

LONDON — It's been 87 years since two German women played in a Wimbledon final. Julia Goerges likes the sound of a repeat, though.

"It sounds crazy to maybe have the chance to share a German final in Wimbledon," Goerges said after she and Angelique Kerber advanced to separate semifinals at the All England Club. "Well, it's still one more match to go for both of us. It will be both very tough matches. But it's great to be in a final."

For Goerges, it couldn't get much tougher. She'll be facing Serena Williams, the

seven-time champion who hasn't lost a match at the All England Club since 2014.

Though she missed last year's tournament while pregnant, Kerber, a two-time Grand Slam champion who was runner-up at Wimbledon in 2016, will be playing former French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko on Thursday.

Goerges and Kerber have already accomplished something not seen at Wimbledon since 1931 by putting two Germans in the women's semifinals. That year, Cilly Aussem and Hilde Krahwinkel went on to set up the only all-German women's final in Grand Slam history. Just having two in the last four again is a boost to the country's tennis, Goerges said.

"To really share this feeling with her (Kerber), with a nation, I think that's something which is pretty special," she said.

Of the last four women remaining, the 29-year-old Goerges is the only one who hasn't won a major yet. In fact, this is her first career Grand Slam semifinal — even though many expected her to reach this stage much sooner.

She won her first WTA title in 2010 and followed that up by winning the prestigious Stuttgart tournament the next year. But instead of establishing herself as a regular contender, her form and ranking plummeted over the next few years. That led to a radical overhaul of her coaching team and even a re-location from north to south Germany

in an attempt to get back to her best.

"I took the risk of changing everything," she said. "But, yeah, it's worth it. ... I think now, the moment I'm living, it just shows me that I was right, I actually took a good decision."

Goerges will be facing Williams in a Grand Slam for the second time in little over five weeks, having lost to the American in the third round of the French Open. Williams, though, insists that result isn't an indicator of what will happen on Thursday.

"That was four or five weeks ago. That doesn't matter," Williams said. "This is a whole new match, it's a new surface, it's everything. We're starting from zero."

SPORTS



Federer falls

Top men's seed drops five-set thriller to Anderson » **Page 31**

WORLD CUP

Les Bleus advance to final

Set-piece goal pushes France past Belgium

By STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — France is back in the World Cup final for the first time since Zinedine Zidane's head-butt in 2006.

Twelve years after one of soccer's most infamous moments, Samuel Umtiti used his head to score from a corner kick in the 51st minute and earn France a 1-0 victory over Belgium on Tuesday in the first of the all-European semifinals.

The French danced on the field after the final whistle and shook the hand of Thierry Henry, who helped Les Bleus win the World Cup in 1998 but had been hoping to eliminate his native country as Belgium's assistant coach.

France's fans sang in the stands long past the end of the match, surrounded by yellow-clad security.

They certainly hope to keep the party going on Sunday in the final in Moscow. France will face either Croatia or England, who were to play Wednesday at the Luzhniki Stadium in the Russian capital.

"Vive la France! Vive la Republique!" France forward Antoine Griezmann shouted during the post-match celebrations.

France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris made a great save in each half, denying the potent Belgian attack of Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku the chance to advance the country to its first major

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NATACHA PSARENKO, ABOVE, AND PETR DAVID JOSEN, RIGHT/AP

Above: France's Samuel Umtiti, center, heads the ball into the net to score the only goal of Tuesday's semifinal match against Belgium at the World Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. France won 1-0 to advance to the final for the first time since 2006.

Right: France's Kylian Mbappe, right, and Presnel Kimpembe celebrate at the end of the match.

